

Farewell from All

For McCain, a cross-country farewell from public, presidents

In this Oct. 11, 2008, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks at a rally in Davenport, Iowa. Arizona Sen. McCain, the war hero who became the GOP's standard-bearer in the 2008 election, has died. He was 81. His office says McCain died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018. He had battled brain cancer. Associated Press.

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two former presidents are expected to speak at Sen. John McCain's service and

he will lie in state in both the nation's capital and Arizona as part of a cross-country funeral procession ending with his burial at the U.S. Naval Academy, according to

plans taking shape Sunday. McCain had long feuded with President Donald Trump, and two White House officials said McCain's family had asked, before the sena-

tor's death, that Trump not attend the funeral services.

Continued on Page 3

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Shooting at video game tournament claims multiple lives

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **BREN-DAN FARRINGTON**
 Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— A gunman opened fire Sunday at an online video game tournament that was being livestreamed from a Florida mall, killing multiple people and sending many others to hospitals, authorities said.

Sheriff's officers did not

immediately confirm the number of dead at the Jacksonville Landing, a collection of restaurants and shops along the St. Johns River.

But an official close to the investigation said the shooting left four people dead and that the gunman died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. It was not clear if the official included the

suspect in the death toll.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to release information.

Sheriff Mike Williams said authorities had yet to identify the suspect who attacked the video football tournament, which featured the game "Madden NFL 19." The competition was held



Law enforcement patrols the St. Johns River by boat just outside the Jacksonville Landing where an active shooter was reported Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018 in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

in a gaming bar that shares space with a pizzeria. Viewers could watch the games online and see the players. Investigators were looking into online video that appeared to capture the scene right before the shooting began, Williams said.

A red dot that appears to be a laser pointer is visible on the chest of a player seconds before the first of a dozen gunshots rings out. Jason Lake, the founder and CEO of compLexity, a company that owns professional e-sports teams, said on Twitter that one of his players, 19-year-old Drini Gjoka, was shot in the thumb.

Gjoka tweeted: "The tourney just got shot up. Im leavinng and never coming back." Then: "I am literally so lucky. The bullet hit my thumb. Worst day of my life."

Marquis Williams, 28, and his girlfriend, Taylor Poindexter, 26, both from Chicago, were ordering pizza at the bar when they heard the gunfire. Williams said people trampled each other trying to get away.

"Initially we thought it was

a balloon popping, but there weren't any balloons in the room. Then we heard repeat shots and we took off running," said Williams, who participated in the tournament earlier.

The sheriff's office used Twitter and Facebook to warn people to stay far away and to ask anyone who was hiding to call 911. Police barricaded a three-block radius around the mall. Officers and Coast Guard boats patrolled the nearby river. Many ambulances could be seen in the area, but the mall area appeared empty of all but law enforcement. Police also took up positions on a bridge overlooking the river.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Donald Trump had been briefed on the attack and the White House was monitoring the situation.

The Jacksonville Landing, in the heart of the city's downtown, also hosts concerts and other entertainment. It was the site of a Trump rally in 2015, early in his campaign for the White House. □

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For McCain, a cross-country farewell from public, presidents

Continued from Front

Vice President Mike Pence is likely to attend, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

A day after McCain died of brain cancer at 81, his family, friends and congressional and state leaders were working out details of the farewell to the decorated Vietnam War hero, prisoner of war and six-term senator. His office said that McCain will lie in state in the Arizona State Capitol on Wednesday and have a funeral nearby on Thursday. The procession will then head to Washington, where McCain will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda on Friday with a formal ceremony and time for the public to pay respects. The next day, the procession will pass the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and head to a funeral at Washington National Cathedral. A private funeral is planned for Sunday at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Trump tweeted that his "deepest sympathies and respect" went out to McCain's family. First lady Melania Trump tweeted thanks to McCain for his service to the country.

Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, who blocked McCain's own White House ambitions, are among those expected to speak at McCain's funeral. "These were bitter contests, both of them," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and "to ask them to speak at your funeral, and for them to

be honored at the opportunity, that tells you all you need to know."

Flake told CBS' "Face the Nation" that McCain "was quick to forgive — certainly put the good of the country above himself, and the fact that his former opponents will be there speaking says all we need to know." McCain died at his Arizona ranch after a yearlong battle with brain cancer.

A black hearse, accompanied by a police motorcade, could be seen driving away from the ranch near Sedona where McCain spent his final weeks. For 50 miles along Interstate 17 southbound, on every overpass and at every exit ramp, people watched the procession. Hundreds, including many waving American flags, parked their cars and got out to watch.

Congressional leaders announced that McCain would lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda, though they did not give a date. "The nation mourns the loss of a great American patriot, a statesman who put his country first and enriched this institution through many years of service," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Arizona will accord McCain that honor on Wednesday, when he would have turned 82. "This is a rare and distinct occurrence for a truly special man," GOP Gov. Doug Ducey said in a tweet.

Ducey does not plan to announce his selection of a Senate successor to McCain until after McCain's

burial. Under state law, the governor's appointee to serve until the next general election in 2020 must come from the same political party. A statement from Ducey's office said that "now is a time for remembering and honoring a consequential life." Trump's brief Twitter statement said "hearts and prayers" are with the McCain family.

Trump and McCain were at bitter odds until the end. The president, who as a candidate in 2016 mocked McCain's capture in Viet-

nam, had jabbed at the ailing senator for voting against Republican efforts to roll back President Barack Obama's health care law.

Earlier this summer, McCain issued a blistering statement criticizing Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Obama, who triumphed over McCain in 2008, said that despite their differences, McCain and he shared a "fidelity to something higher - the ideals for which generations of Americans

and immigrants alike have fought, marched, and sacrificed."

Obama said they "saw our political battles, even, as a privilege, something noble, an opportunity to serve as stewards of those high ideals at home, and to advance them around the world."

Bush, who defeated McCain for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, called McCain a "man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order" and a "friend whom I'll deeply miss." □



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Replacing McCain in the Senate is political balancing act

PHOENIX (AP) — Sen. John McCain's death in office has handed Arizona's governor an empty Senate seat to give out — and a difficult political puzzle to solve before he does.

Arizona law requires only that Gov. Doug Ducey name a replacement who is a member of McCain's Republican party and who will fill the seat until the next general election in 2020. But in a state with a deeply divided Republican Party, where McCain was a towering but divisive figure, the choice is far more complicated.

Ducey is balancing the demands of the many conservative Arizona Republicans who have soured on McCain due to his dovish immigration stance, criticism of President Trump and vote against a rollback of President Obama's health care law. They are wary of Ducey appointing a moderate. But naming someone with dramatically different views from McCain could be viewed as disrespectful to McCain's legacy, carrying its own risks. In either case, Ducey wants to set the party up to hold the seat two years from now, no easy task given the turmoil in his party.

The decision is under close scrutiny in Washington. While McCain has been treated for cancer in Arizona and unable to vote in Washington, his party's already narrow Senate majority had shrunk from two votes to one. With the confirmation of Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, scheduled for next month the GOP needs every reliable vote it can get. Ducey's office has heard from Vice President Mike Pence's aides about the choice, a

person familiar with the discussions said Sunday. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and asked for anonymity.

and spokesman Daniel Ruiz said on Sunday that the appointment will not be made until after McCain's funeral, which will likely be

ly unknown.

Another caretaker option would be Kyl, now a Washington lobbyist viewed as a safe, uncontroversial

GOP stalwarts who don't have a history of feuding with the base, as is Adams, Ducey's top aide and a onetime speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives. State Treasurer Eileen Klein could also be a strong candidate in 2020 if Ducey wants to pick someone who'd run for election rather than a caretaker, according to Republican operatives.

The person who was previously seen as McCain's most likely successor is Arizona Rep. Martha McSally. Like the late senator, she's a former fighter pilot — one of the first women to fly in combat and an air force colonel. But she is running for the Senate seat vacated by Sen. Jeff Flake, who, like McCain, outraged the state's conservative base for bucking Trump on immigration and other issues.

Like Ducey, McSally faces a primary on Tuesday, but her challenge from the right has been stiffer than the governor's. It's also illustrated how fraught the McCain issue is for Arizona Republicans.

One of her rivals, former state senator Kelli Ward, ran against McCain in the 2016 GOP primary. On Saturday, hours before McCain died, Ward speculated on Facebook that the McCain family announced the senator was ending medical treatment on Friday to distract from her final push in the primary.

In a sign of how hostile many GOP primary voters are to the state's late senior senator, earlier this month McSally had avoided mentioning McCain's name while boasting that she'd been with Trump at the signing of the defense bill named in McCain's honor.



As flags fly at half-staff at the Arizona Capitol in memory of the late Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, television crews broadcast live Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

A day after McCain's death, political types from Arizona to Washington were buzzing with options. The senator's wife, Cindy McCain, was viewed as a possibility, as was former Sen. John Kyl and former McCain chief of staff, Grant Woods. Another group of former lawmakers and state officials were floated as middle-ground options — including Ducey's chief of staff Kirk Adams — who might not anger the right wing of the party.

"If he picks someone too far left, we're going to have a primary in two years," said Constantine Querard, a conservative Republican strategist.

Ducey himself faces a weak primary challenge from his right in the state's primary elections Tuesday,

next week.

"Now is a time for remembering and honoring a consequential life well lived," Ruiz's statement said.

Doug Cole, a former McCain staffer and veteran Arizona strategist, said one of Ducey's key choices has to be whether he wants to name someone who wants the job for the long term. "Do I appoint a caretaker or do I appoint someone who will stand for election?" Cole asked. "Does he choose from the family?"

Some observers predict the governor will be solicitous to the McCain family's wishes. That's led to widespread speculation that Cindy McCain could be selected, likely under the assumption that she would not run for the seat in 2020. But Cindy McCain's politics are large-

choice. But Kyl already is tasked with shepherding the Kavanaugh nomination and Republicans may be loath to upend that process.

Barrett Marson, a Republican strategist in Phoenix, said that if Ducey opts for someone with long-term designs on the seat, "he has to pick someone who can galvanize voters in 2020." Woods, a former Arizona attorney general and McCain aide, is another possibility. But he is known for sharing McCain's stances on immigration, which could be anathema to the state's conservative voters. Arizona operatives speculate that one of two former congressmen from the state, John Shadegg and Matt Salmon, could fill the seat. They're both

8 people, 6 of them kids, killed in Chicago apartment fire

CHICAGO (AP) — Eight people, including six children, were killed when a fire broke out before dawn Sunday at a Chicago apartment in one of the deadliest fires in the nation's third-largest city in years, officials say. Two other people were hospitalized in very critical condition, Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Merritt said. One of the children who died was an infant, according to Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago.

"We have not had this in many, many, many years — this amount of fatalities and injuries in one location," he said.

A makeshift memorial along a nearby sidewalk included crosses for each child who died — a small Mickey Mouse doll set next to one. The Rev. Clifford Spears of Saint Michael Missionary Baptist Church led a crowd that gathered in prayer, the Chicago Tribune reported. A candlelight vigil was planned for Sunday night.

Officials had not released the names or ages of the victims, all of whom were in the same residence, Merritt said. The cause of the blaze hasn't been determined.

A woman who saw the blaze as she was returning home from work alerted people and gave them a chance to escape, Santiago said. She called 911 around 4 a.m., then began knocking on doors in the largely Hispanic Little Village neighborhood on the city's southwest side.

"So the female who did that saved a lot of lives," Santiago said.

At least two buildings caught fire, one of them described by fire department officials as a coach



Chicago firefighters walk under tape at the scene of a fire that killed several people including multiple children Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Chicago. The cause of the blaze hasn't been determined.

Associated Press.

house.

Video showed smoke coming from windows of a three-story building's stone facade, with flames engulfing the back. Police officers helped push a stretcher toward an ambulance, while a paramedic simultaneously performed CPR. One woman lay on a street crying while someone tried to comfort her.

The fire was put out by just after 5 a.m., fire department officials said. At least one firefighter was injured and was hospitalized in good condition.

Merritt said investigators have not found working smoke detectors.

The American Red Cross planned to work with the Chicago Fire Department to canvass the neighborhood to ensure homes have functional smoke alarms installed, the CEO of the Chicago & Northern Illinois Red Cross, Celena Roldan, told the Chicago Sun-Times. □

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Weight-loss drug Belviq seems safe for heart, study finds

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

For the first time, a drug has been shown to help people lose weight and keep it off for several years without raising their risk for heart problems — a safety milestone that may encourage wider use to help curb the obesity epidemic.

The drug, Belviq, has been sold in the United States since 2013 and is the first of several new weight-loss medicines to succeed in a long-term heart safety study now required by federal regulators to stay on the market.

"Patients and their doctors have been nervous about using drugs to treat obesity and for good reason. There's a history of these drugs having serious complications," said study leader Dr. Erin Bohula of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. With this study, Belviq has been convincingly shown safe for the heart, she said. Although Belviq did not raise heart risks, it didn't lower them either, as many had hoped it would. The weight loss it produced was fairly modest — after 40 months, Belviq users had shed 9 pounds (4 kilograms), twice as much as those on dummy pills.

It may be that weight loss alone is not enough to lower heart risks, or that there needs to be more to do that, some doctors said.

Results were discussed Sunday at a European Society of Cardiology meeting in Munich and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. Belviq's mak-

This undated image provided by Eisai in August 2018 shows the company's Belviq medication. For the first time, a study found that a drug can help people lose weight and keep it off for several years without raising their risk for heart problems.

er, Eisai Inc., sponsored the study and many of the researchers consult or work for the company.

Worldwide, 13 percent of adults are obese and 39 percent are overweight, raising their risk for a host of health problems. Diet and exercise are the first steps doctors recommend, but medicines also can be considered for people with dangerously high weight who cannot drop enough pounds by other means.

Several popular diet medicines were previously withdrawn from sale after they were found to raise the risk for heart valve damage, suicidal thoughts or other problems, prompting the new requirement for heart safety studies.

Belviq is an appetite suppressant that works by stimulating brain chemicals to give a feeling of fullness. It costs roughly \$220 to \$290 a month in the United States. Researchers tested it in a

study of 12,000 people who were either obese or overweight with heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure or cholesterol. They were given Belviq or dummy pills to take twice a day and offered lifestyle and diet advice.

At one year, 39 percent on Belviq and 17 percent on dummy pills had lost at least 5 percent of their starting weight. Several previous studies also found the drug effective for weight loss.

After about three years, 6 percent of each group had suffered a heart-related problem or death.

Fewer people on Belviq developed diabetes — 8.5 percent versus 10.3 percent on dummy pills.

Serious side effects were similar, but more on Belviq stopped taking their pills because of them — 7 percent versus 4 percent. Common side effects included dizziness, fatigue, headache and nausea.

Dangerously low blood sugar happened in 13 people on Belviq versus four in the other group; all but one case involved people also taking diabetes medicines, which lower blood sugar.

Tests for heart valve damage were done on 3,270 participants but no big differences in rates were seen. Suicidal thoughts or behavior were reported in 21 people on Belviq versus 11 on dummy pills, but more on the drug had a history of depression and the difference was so small it could have been due to chance, Bohula said.

In a commentary, two of the journal's editors, Drs. Julie Inglefinger and Clifford Rosen, said there might be alternatives to Belviq. Liraglutide, when used to treat diabetes, also causes weight loss and lowers heart risks, though it hasn't been tested for cardiac safety at the dose used for weight loss.

For now, Belviq "may be best used on a cautious basis, according to the needs of individual patients," they write. □

Lane brought record rain to Hawaii, but lost its wallop

By MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press

HAWAII — Hurricane Lane secured its place in the history books before it quickly dissipated into a tropical storm and moved off from Hawaii. The storm caused damage, mostly on the Big Island, where rivers raged near Hilo and nearly 40 people had to be rescued from homes.

There were no deaths from the storm, which had the potential to cause much more destruction.

Here's a look at the storm and its impact on Hawaii.

RAIN MAKER

The storm named Lane was barreling toward the Hawaiian Islands as a powerful Category 5 hurricane in the middle of the week. But then it slowed down, moving as slow as 2 mph at times.

As it lingered, the storm's outer bands were already over the Big Island, allowing Lane to drop 51.53 inches (131 centimeters) of rain as of early Sunday morning, according to preliminary figures from the National Weather Service.

That puts it in third place for the most rain from a storm in the United States since 1950. Hurricane Harvey, which stalled over Houston last year, dropped the most rain in that span with 60.58 inches (154 centimeters), Bingaman said. Hurricane Hiki dropped 52 inches (132 centimeters) in Hawaii in 1950, and Amelia produced a 48-inch (122 centimeter) rainfall in 1978.

Rain was still falling on the Big Island, and the total could still increase.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO LANE?

Residents and businesses across the islands prepared for the worst, boarding up windows and stocking up on supplies. Tourists in hotels along Waikiki Beach in Honolulu didn't heed warnings to get out of the water. But many visitors stocked up on snack food and beer at convenience stores just in case. While the Big Island took the brunt of the storm, the worst of fears never materialized as Lane quick-



A surfer walks along Waikiki Beach in a light rain from Tropical Storm Lane, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in Honolulu.

Associated Press.

ly fell apart.

Winds ultimately caused the demise of Lane, National Weather Service meteorologist Vanessa Almanza said. The storm moved in the central Pacific along a high-pressure ridge last week, when there wasn't much wind shear to affect the hurricane.

But then the storm began moving north toward Hawaii around the high-pressure ridge, and that's when its winds died down and it lost speed.

The jet stream "just kind of pushed the top off of the hurricane and what happens is it loses exhaust so it just starts collapsing," Almanza said.

It was downgraded to a tropical storm on Friday, and all warnings for Hawaii were cancelled Saturday morning after the storm turned west and moved away from the state.

LAVA

Hawaii's Big Island has had more than its fair share of natural disasters this year, with Kilauea volcano destroying more than 700 homes with lava.

If there's any silver lining, it's that the lava rock might have helped absorb some of the rainwater better than soil because it's more porous, Bingaman said.

Matthew Purvis, president

of the Mainstreet Pahoia Association, said land in the Puna district on the southern part of the island is so porous, there are few waterways that will get clogged or overflow.

SPEAKING OF KILAUEA

The volcano is still erupting. In fact, it's been in a continuous state of eruption since 1983, and it opened up several vents beginning in May. It was those vents that sent lava down rural streets, destroying entire neighborhoods as it flowed to the ocean. The volcano has settled down since, but it is still active. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory says Tropical Storm Lane had little effect on the volcano beyond some minor rock falls at the summit.

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Volunteers re-enact World War I encampment in Verdun, France

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

VERDUN, France (AP) —

Hundreds of volunteers from 18 countries have gathered in the northeastern French town of Verdun to keep alive the memory of those who fought under appalling conditions in World War I.

Re-enactors dressed in soldiers' uniforms brought to life a big military encampment in the town and held a military parade Saturday, part of a series of events to mark the centenary of the end of the war.

Visitors could visualize soldiers' daily life during the war through the reconstruction of field kitchens, First Aid posts and command posts. Soldiers in khaki, grey or blue uniforms, depending on the country, and women wearing Red Cross nurses uniforms were presenting authentic objects and equipment from the 1914-1918 war.

Other volunteers were dispatched on key battlefield areas around Verdun. They



Men dressed in WWI uniforms stand during a parade, part of a reconstruction of the WWI battle of Verdun, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in Verdun, eastern France.

didn't re-enact any fighting out of respect for the sites, which have since become a symbol of peace.

Instead, German and Polish volunteers were sharing tips about military clothes and historic anecdotes with their French, Australian and

English neighbors at the encampment.

The 10-month battle at Verdun — the longest in World War I — killed 163,000 French and 143,000 German soldiers and wounded hundreds of thousands of others. Between February

and December 1916, an estimated 60 million shells were fired. Entire villages were destroyed and never rebuilt. The former battlefield still holds millions of unexploded shells, so that housing and farming are still forbidden in some ar-

Associated Press

eas. Dozens of heads of state and government, including U.S. President Donald Trump, are expected in Paris to commemorate the Armistice that ended the war on Nov. 11. World War I remembrance sites and museums have seen a strong increase in tourist numbers in recent years, boosted by the commemorations of the centenary. More than 1 million visitors were counted on the five main sites in and around Verdun in 2016, the year of the 100th anniversary of the battle. Celine Guillin, visiting Verdun with her 8-year-old son, said the recreated encampment allowed visitors to be "very conscious of the hardness of life during the Great War. It was hard on soldiers, but also on their wives, their whole family." She pointed at a poster urging French women and children to work in the fields during the summer of 1914. Jacob Withoos, 19, came from Australia as a volunteer within a group of 12 men. □

Food, water tested at Egyptian hotel where Britons died



This Friday, Aug. 24, 2018 photo taken from video shows exterior of the Steigenberger Aqua Magic Hotel in Hurghada, Egypt.

Associated Press

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Experts are testing food, water and air conditioning systems

at an Egyptian resort hotel where a British couple died under mysterious circumstances, the chief executive of travel company

Thomas Cook said Sunday. Thomas Cook Group CEO Peter Fankhauser pledged to find out what happened to John and Susan Cooper, who died at the Steigenberger Aqua Magic Hotel in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Hurghada on Tuesday. The couple's daughter, Kelly Ormerod, told British media Friday she was suspicious because her parents had been in perfect health hours before they died. She said John Cooper died in his room, and Susan Cooper died after she was taken to the hospital.

Fankhauser told Britain's

Sky News on Sunday there was no evidence of carbon monoxide poisoning. Experts "took probes of the food, of the hygienic systems, of water, as well as the air conditioning systems and all those probes are now in Egypt," he said, adding that the tests would take 10 days to complete. Prosecutors in Egypt on Saturday dismissed speculation that toxic gas fumes in the Coopers' hotel room killed the couple. An official inspection of the room found no harmful gas leaks and all the devices worked properly, they said. The

Egyptian prosecutor's office said it is awaiting a forensic analysis of samples taken from the bodies to provide more details. Egyptian authorities dismissed criminal motives as being behind the deaths. An official statement by the Red Sea governorate on Friday said an initial medical examination of John Cooper showed he had suffered acute circulatory collapse and a sudden cardiac arrest. It said Susan Cooper later fainted and was rushed to a hospital, where resuscitation attempts continued for a half-hour. □



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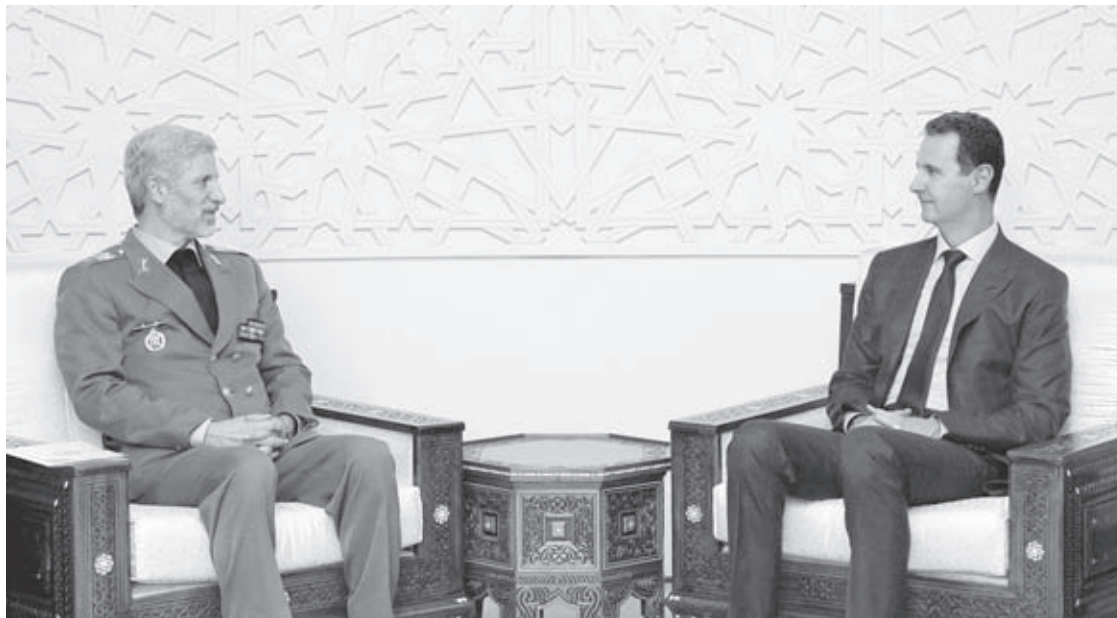
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Iran says 'no third party' will limit its support to Syria

By ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Iran's defense minister said Sunday his country will continue its support of the Syrian government to ensure improved security in the region, adding that the nature of the two countries' cooperation won't be decided by a "third party." Israel has expressed concern over Iran's growing influence in Syria, accusing Iran of seeking to establish a foothold near the frontier with the Jewish state. The United States has been pressing for Iran to withdraw its fighters from Syria. In recent meetings between U.S. and Russian officials, President Donald Trump's national security adviser John Bolton said he and Russian officials are discussing the issue, without providing details, calling it a U.S. priority. Iran says its presence in Syria is at the invitation of the Syrian government. "No third party can affect the presence of Iranian advisers in Syria," Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami told reporters in Damas-



This photo released by Syrian official news agency SANA, shows Syrian president Bashar Assad with Iran's Defense minister Amir Hatami, in Damascus, Syria, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018.

cus. His comments came at the start of a two-day visit to Syria, where he met with the Syrian President Bashar Assad and other senior officials. The high-level military delegation headed by Hatami is expected to boost cooperation between the two countries, and Iranian media reported that the two are expected to sign new military and defense agreements.

Hatami said he hopes Iran

can play a "productive role" in Syria's reconstruction, according to Iran's Press TV. "Iran will spare no effort to maintain Syria's territorial integrity, because security in the country will help (improve) regional stability," Hatami said in a meeting with his Syrian counterpart, General Ali Abdullah Ayyoub, in Damascus on Sunday, according to Press TV. He later met with Assad.

Israel has expressed concern over Iran's growing influence in Syria, accusing Iran of seeking to establish a foothold near the frontier with the Jewish state.

Earlier this year, Israeli jets carried out a number of strikes against suspected Iranian bases in Syria, including an unprecedented bombardment of Iranian military installations in May, reportedly in retaliation to an Iranian rocket barrage

on Israeli positions in the occupied Golan Heights.

The two-day visit comes as Syria gears up for an expected offensive in the northern Idlib province, the last major rebel stronghold, which also has a large al-Qaida presence. The province is home to nearly 3 million people and borders Turkey, which fears an offensive may trigger a humanitarian and security catastrophe. Ayyoub, the Syrian defense minister, said his government is determined to restore government control over Idlib whether through reconciliation deals or with military operations. A Turkish, Russian and Iranian summit is expected in early September in Tehran to discuss Syria.

Idlib was on top of the agenda during talks between Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Friday. Turkey has sought to delay any offensive, while Russia has expressed growing impatience, accusing insurgents of targeting its forces from the province. □



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Letter: Vatican knew about disgraced archbishop's behavior

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — The Vatican's retired ambassador to the United States accused senior Vatican officials of knowing as early as 2000 that the disgraced former archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, regularly invited seminarians into his bed but was made a cardinal regardless.

The letter, an extraordinary allegation from a one-time Holy See diplomat, also accuses Pope Francis of knowing about McCarrick's behavior in 2013 but rehabilitating him — a claim of cover-up against the pontiff himself.

The National Catholic Register and another conservative site, LifeSiteNews, published the letter attributed to Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano on Sunday as the pope wrapped up a two-day visit to Ireland dominated by the clerical sex abuse scandal.

Vigano, 77, a conservative whose hard-line anti-gay views are well known, urged the reformist pope to resign over the issue and



In this Sept. 23, 2015 file photo, Pope Francis reaches out to hug Cardinal Archbishop emeritus Theodore McCarrick at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington.

Associated Press

what he called the "conspiracy of silence" about McCarrick. He and the pope have long been on opposite ideological sides, with the pope more a pastor and Vigano more a cultural warrior.

The Vatican did not im-

mediately comment. The document's authenticity was confirmed to The Associated Press by an Italian journalist, Marco Tosatti, who said he was with Vigano when the archbishop wrote it Wednesday.

"He was very emotional and upset at the end the effort," Tosatti told AP, adding that Vigano left Tosatti's home afterward without saying where he was going.

In the letter, Vigano accused the former Vatican secretaries of state under the previous two popes of ignoring detailed denunciations against McCarrick for years. He said Pope Benedict XVI eventually sanctioned McCarrick in 2009 or 2010 to a lifetime of penance and prayer.

Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as cardinal last month, after a U.S. church investigation determined that an accusation he had sexually abused a minor was credible.

Since then, another man has come forward to say McCarrick began molesting him starting when he was 11, and several former seminarians have said McCarrick abused and harassed them when they were in seminary. The accusations have created a crisis of confidence in the

U.S. hierarchy, because it was apparently an open secret that McCarrick regularly invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house, and into his bed.

Coupled with the devastating allegations of sex abuse and cover-up in a recent Pennsylvania grand jury report — which found that 300 priests had abused more than 1,000 children over 70 years in six dioceses — the scandal has led to calls for heads to roll and for a full Vatican investigation into who knew what and when about McCarrick.

Vigano apparently sought to answer some of those questions. His letter identifies by name the Vatican cardinals and archbishops who were informed about the McCarrick affair, an unthinkable expose for a Vatican diplomat to make. He said documents backing up his version of events are in Vatican archives.

The Vatican's ambassador to the U.S. from 2011 to 2016, Vigano said his two immediate predecessors "did not fail" to inform the Holy See about accusations against McCarrick, starting in 2000.

He said Francis asked him about McCarrick when they met on June 23, 2013, at the Vatican's Santa Mar-

ta hotel where the pope lives, three months after Francis was elected pope. Vigano wrote that he told Francis: "Holy Father, I don't know if you know Cardinal McCarrick, but if you ask the Congregation of Bishops, there is a dossier this thick about him. He corrupted generations of seminarians and priests, and Pope Benedict ordered him to withdraw to a life of prayer and penance."

Soon thereafter, Vigano wrote, he was surprised to find that McCarrick had started traveling on missions on behalf of the church, including to China. McCarrick was also one of the Vatican's intermediaries in the U.S.-Cuba talks in 2014.

Vigano's claim that McCarrick had been ordered by Benedict to stay out of public ministry and retire to a lifetime of prayer is somewhat disputed, given that McCarrick enjoyed a fairly public retirement. Vigano provides no evidence that such sanctions were imposed by Benedict in any official capacity, saying only that he was told they were.

The letter also contains a lengthy diatribe about homosexuals and liberals in the Catholic church. It often reads like an ideological manifesto, naming all of Francis' known supporters in the U.S. hierarchy as being complicit in a cover-up of McCarrick's misdeeds.

"Now that the corruption has reached the very top of the church's hierarchy, my conscience dictates that I reveal those truths regarding the heart-breaking case of the archbishop emeritus of Washington," Vigano wrote.

Vigano, however, also has had his own problems with allegations of cover-up, and he and Francis had a major dust-up during Francis' 2015 visit to the U.S., which Vigano organized. In that incident, a leading U.S. opponent of gay marriage, Kim Davis, was among those invited to meet with the pope at Vigano's Washington residence. □



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A subdued Zimbabwe inaugurates Mnangagwa after disputed vote

By FARAI MUTSAKA

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— Zimbabwe on Sunday inaugurated a president for the second time in nine months as the country once jubilant over the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe is now largely subdued by renewed harassment of the opposition and a bitterly disputed election. The military-backed President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who again took the oath of office, faces the mammoth task of rebuilding a worsening economy and uniting a nation divided by a vote that many hoped would deliver change.

The 75-year-old Mnangagwa, who took power from his mentor Mugabe with the military's help in November, said "my arms are outstretched" to main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa after the Constitutional Court on Friday rejected opposition claims of vote-rigging and upheld



Supporters of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa carry a makeshift coffin bearing name of opposition leader Nelson Chamisa at the National Sports Stadium in Harare, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018.

Associated Press

the president's narrow July 30 victory.

Some supporters of the president, however, carried a makeshift coffin bearing

Chamisa's name during Sunday's ceremony.

"In just nine months we've birthed a new Zimbabwe," said Mnangagwa, who

has promised democratic and economic reforms after Mugabe's repressive 37-year rule. He opened his speech by reading a

letter from the 94-year-old Mugabe, whose firing of Mnangagwa sparked November's dramatic events, offering congratulations and saying he could not attend because "I'm not well." Mnangagwa told the crowd that "our democracy has indeed come of age" and he invited all political parties to unite and "develop the motherland." The 40-year-old Chamisa on Saturday said he respectfully rejects the court ruling and called the inauguration "false."

"They know they can't invite me to a wedding where I was the one supposed to be receiving the gifts," he said. Spokesman Nkululeko Sibanda said "we haven't received any formal invitation." Ruling party spokesman Paul Mangwana criticized Chamisa over the inauguration snub.

"It is important for nation-building at this critical time," Mangwana told The Associated Press. □

Chinese police detain owner of hotel where fire killed 19

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Police in northeastern China have detained the owner of a resort hotel where a fire killed 19 people and injured 23 others.

The public security bureau of the city of Harbin said on its official social media account it was questioning the legal representative of the Beilong Hot Spring Leisure Hotel on suspicion of negligence leading to Saturday's fire.

The disaster added to a string of deadly blazes that have plagued China de-

spite official efforts to improve public safety over the past two decades.

The fire broke out at the four-story hotel in Harbin's Sun Island recreation area at 4:36 a.m. and was extinguished at 7:50 a.m. by a force of 105 firefighters with 30 firetrucks, Chinese state television said.

Firefighters found 18 people dead and one more died at a hospital, the Harbin city government said on its social media account. It said 23 people were injured and more than 80 evacuated. Harbin, with about 5

million people, is the second-largest city in China's northeast, after Shenyang. It is known for the Russian architecture of its inner city and as the site of a winter festival with sculptures made of ice blocks cut from the Songhua River. The ruling Communist Party has tried to improve fire safety following deadly blazes at hotels, shopping malls and apartment buildings. But the country still suffers major fires. In November, a fire blamed on faulty wiring at a Beijing apartment building killed 19 people. □



This image taken from a video footage run by China's CCTV on Aug. 25, 2018, shows Beilong Hot Spring Hotel in Harbin's Sun Island resort area, following a fire.

Associated Press



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Fear, uncertain future for Nicaragua's student protesters

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Jairo Bonilla was inside a Managua seminary last spring during a break in Catholic Church-mediated talks to try to end Nicaragua's bloody political crisis when two fellow students approached him with a threat.

"You're going to pay," warned one of them, Leonel Morales, the president of the government-backed student union at Nicaragua Polytechnic University, where they both studied. "Your family is going to cry tears of blood."

"You know where to find me," Bonilla replied.

That was then. Now the 20-year-old, a leader of student protests against President Daniel Ortega's government, is in hiding, trying to ignore the threats that come regularly on Facebook and in menacing text messages. He has survived four months of resistance to Ortega's government, but the student movement he helps lead is now largely underground.

Hundreds of people have been killed in the government's brutal suppression of the months-long protests that erupted in April. More than 2,000 people have been detained as security forces search for those who took part, including about 320 still in custody. Many say they have been abused at the hands of the authorities, including severe beatings and torture. The common refrain of "We're not scared!" chanted at the early student marches,

In this July 28, 2018 photo, Jairo Bonilla, wearing a #WeAreStudents t-shirt, gives an interview at a safe house in Nicaragua.

is seldom heard any more. "Ortega achieved his objective," Bonilla said in a recent interview, held at a secret location. "He made us feel fear."

Chased off their college campuses, the future is uncertain for the students who have stood up to Ortega. Many have fled the country, others are scattered about in safe houses. Some are recovering from bullet wounds they suffered during the government crack-down or struggling with psychological trauma, while Bonilla and other student leaders try to rally the attention of the international community and strategize how to maintain pressure at home.

Bonilla joined the uprising against Ortega's government in mid-April, angered like many of his classmates

by the violent government response to protests by retirees angry over cuts in social security benefits. After the marches quickly evolved into a general call for Ortega's ouster and student casualties mounted, Bonilla volunteered to represent his fellow students in the church-mediated talks to try to end the crisis. That effort was short-lived. In a fiery speech in July, Ortega accused the Roman Catholic bishops of organizing the mediation of being "coup mongers" seeking his ouster and said they were unqualified to be mediators. The talks have not restarted.

With control of the country's universities and other opposition bastions now firmly in government hands, Ortega, who has been in power since 2007, has

vowed to remain in office until at least 2021, when his latest term ends. He has dismissed those who participated in the protests as "terrorists" manipulated by outside forces.

These days, Bonilla spends his time holed up in his hide-out, trying to prepare for the day when talks with the government might resume. He reads political economy texts, studies negotiation tactics and absorbs as much as he can about Nicaraguan history online. He has changed safe houses twice since June.

Still, Bonilla's situation is better than some.

He is still in Nicaragua and slips out in the open, his face masked by a bandanna, to participate in the sporadic, smaller protest marches that continue despite the arrests and

mounting death toll. Other students were locked up for days in a shed or forced to hide at the bottom of a well while government forces searched for them.

There is now a tense calm in Managua, following the violent government crack-down. The stone barricades the students and other government opponents erected at the height of the protests on major highways and outside entire neighborhoods have now been removed by government forces. But there is little activity after nightfall; many restaurants are shuttered and people rush home at dusk, fearful of the masked armed civilians working in coordination with the police who patrol the city's streets. In the moments when they aren't worried about being discovered or where their next meal will come from, many of those in hiding grow despondent over an unraveling future.

"We want to go on with our normal lives," Bonilla said. One 25-year-old woman, who had been working on a master's degree at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua before she joined the student resistance movement, is already in her second country of exile. Early this month, she fled to Costa Rica, where she had hoped to establish a network of support for those in hiding in Nicaragua. But rumors of government informants among the Nicaraguan exile community there forced her to take off again. Now she is in a third Central American country. □

LOCAL



Meet Photographer and Artist Armando Goedgedrag



ORANJESTAD — The cover picture of the Aruba Today Facebook page will show another picture of a local photographer every couple of months. We just love culture and would like to support our local talents, therefore Aruba Today chooses to be a platform for showcasing art. The newest cover picture is the work of multit talented Armando Goedgedrag. Before him we had the honor to showcase pictures of photographers Michael-Anthony and Anuar Habibe.

Armando Gabriel Louis Goedgedrag was born in the Netherlands, October 28 in 1989. He is the second son of a Dutch mother and Aruban father. In 1991 the family migrated to Aruba where Goedgedrag discovered his first hobbies and sports: swimming, singing and playing guitar. In his youth he participated in several international swimming competitions, taking place on different Caribbean islands as well as The International Children's Games in Cleveland, Ohio.

Goedgedrag loved to color and paint and after doing some workshops with well-known Aruban artist Gustave Nouel, he continued classes of art, among other with Ateliers '98, with the goal to be accepted at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, a established art academy in the Netherlands. He was not accepted, they found his style too realistic and detailed. Goedgedrag decided to study Communication & Multimedia Design. After his Bachelor, he achieved his Master in Animation at the

Academy for Art & Design.

The impulse for the art of painting was given by a bird calendar of nature photographer Greg Peterson. His favorite animal to paint is the Aruban owl, called 'shoco'. In the Arubahuis, the Aruban representation of the government in the Netherlands, you may see a huge painting with owls painted by Goedgedrag. The former president of the Netherlands, Mr. Balkenende, minister Plasterk and astronauts Wubbo Ockels and André

Kuipers received his paintings as a gift of the Aruban government.

After his study Goedgedrag returned to the island and developed a further passion for nature. Together with Peterson he filmed and photographed nature, for all animals and plants that face extinction. In the bird calendar of this year two pictures of Goedgedrag are included.

His other passion: the ocean, also is gaining attention as Goedgedrag is an active body boarder and surfer. He loves relaxing in the waves where the amazing spectacle of colors, light and sounds amaze him every time again.

His goal is to create awareness about Aruban nature, especially with the youth and therefore he visits schools and he is member of Korteweg, an organization of young artists aiming to bring art under the attention of the public.

A short recap: he is an artist, film maker, body boarder and surfer, nature lover and nature protector. Visit his Instagram to get to know his work: artmando_multimedia. And do not forget to like our Facebook page Aruba Today!



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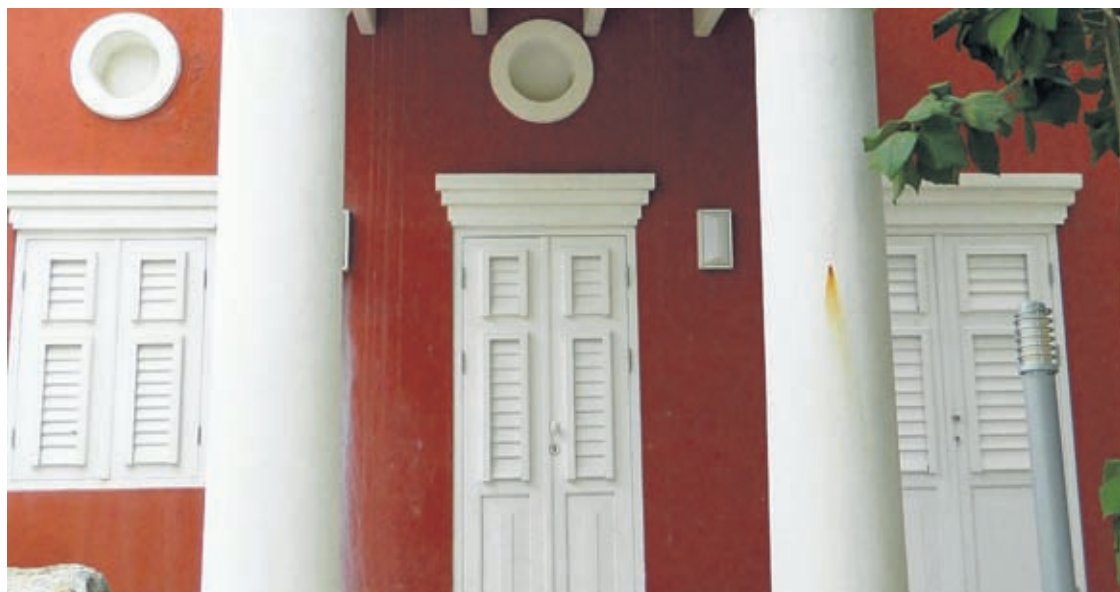
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Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

If you don't know and I don't know, we better find someone who does!

In the last article, I touched base on certain words and sentences that shouldn't be in the vocabulary of anyone who works in hospitality. One definitive sentence that should never be uttered in the work place to a client is "I don't know", because the next thing you may hear from the client is, "you work here, how don't you know?" Not knowing highlights is a fundamental lack of communication. Of course there are instances where the employee being asked the question genuinely doesn't actually know the answer to the question, because they are new, they just came back from vacation that day and hadn't caught up yet or the information was communicated to guests, before being disseminated to the employees.

Working with guests can sometimes make people feel like the human equivalent of Google. We get asked so many questions on so many different topics, from what is a great place to eat, to what the weather is like in a certain



month. The rule is, if you don't know the answer, you can in this case phone a friend/colleague and ask their insights or recommendations for a restaurant or refer the guest to the concierge who will have the necessary information.

We've all been there at least once with a guest who, comes into the office red faced, angry and raving. Believe me if your answer to whatever their question, is "I don't know", you better hide anything that isn't nailed down and prepare for a barrage of insults. The easiest way to de-escalate that situation is by hearing the guest out, expressing empathy and taking direct action by assuring the guest that even if you don't know how to handle their issue, you will find someone else who can help.

Just the other day, I had an owner come into my office and asking questions about the replacement of the hallway ceiling and wanting to know why it was taking so long to finish. I was able to answer his basic questions, with the information I knew, but once he started asking more in depth questions about delays and timelines for completion etc. I knew it was going beyond the scope of my information. I advised him, I would call maintenance and see who I could find to answer his questions. He was more than happy with that and waited for the maintenance chief to walk over to answer his questions. 15 minutes later he had the answers to his questions and left with a greater understanding of the reasons behind the delays.

The important thing to remember is to always find out the correct information or guide customers to the people who can provide the answers as this single action can diffuse a negative situation instead of escalating it. Guests want to know that you are showing them the attention they deserve and will allow you, even if they are very upset, the time to find a solution to their issue and following up with them in an expedient manner. We try our best on a daily basis to never have to be the bearers of bad news, but on the days where it can't be avoided, we know that we've done everything we could before having to say no.□



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

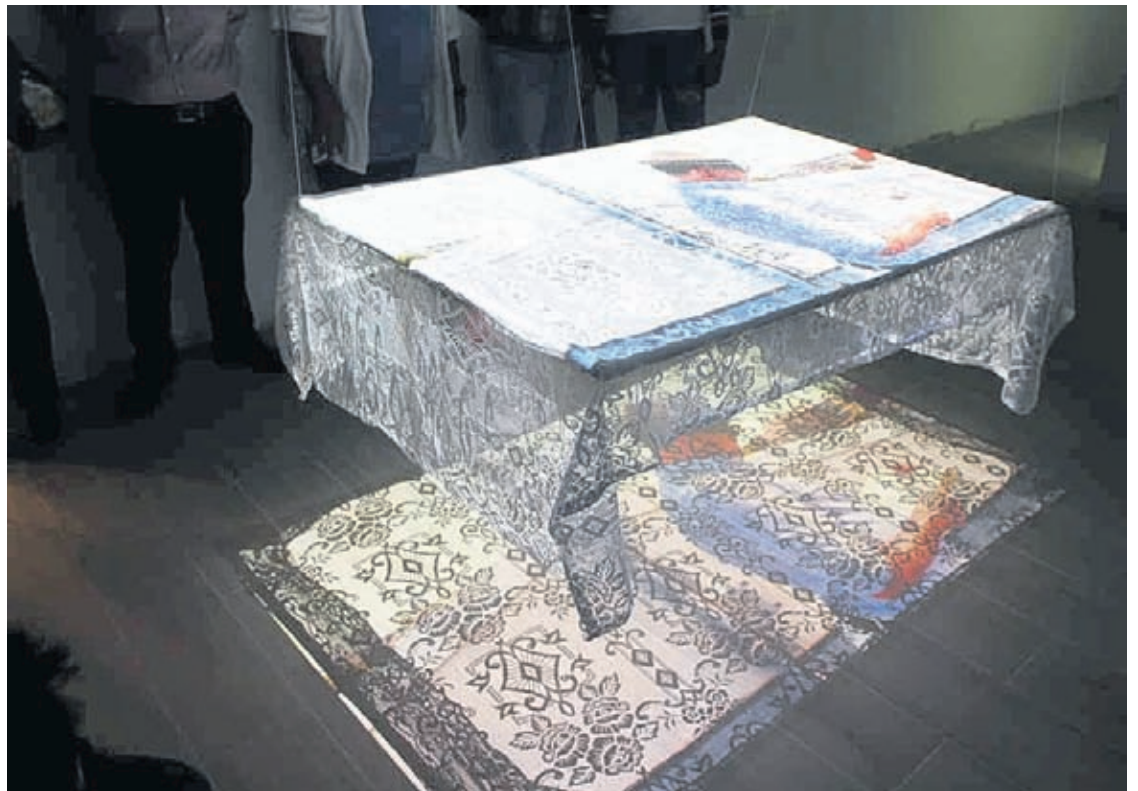
Art with Caribbean Spirit



ORANJESTAD — CARIBBEAN LINKED is a residency program & exhibition organized by Ateliers '89 Foundation in collaboration with ARC Inc. and The Fresh Milk Art Platform. Last Saturday was the closure of this creative outburst of Caribbean talents.

Caribbean Linked started three weeks ago at Ateliers '89 and ended the day before yesterday with an exposition of various artworks. The artists that participated at this event came from the following countries or island: Curaçao, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, Bahamas, Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic and Aruba. The aim of the Caribbean Linked is to let artists from the island and countries get to know each other. The reason why one has decided to start this Art Program is because the artists concerned from where they live they have several common grounds, are geographically close to each other, but are yet so far away. And with this program the intention is to close that gap. To achieve the goal of this program they visited several places during their stay in Aruba, and from the places they visited on the island, they got inspiration to do their artwork in Aruba. The pictures you see here are taken from artwork placed in the Main Street of Oranjestad.

Participating artists this year included Irvin Aguilar (Mexico/Aruba), Franz Caba (Dominican Republic), Kriston Chen (Trinidad & Tobago), Sharelly Emanuelson (Curaçao), Gwladys Gambie (Martinique), Adam Patterson (Barbados), Velvet Zoe Ramos (Aruba), Averia Wriight (The Bahamas, supported by the Charitable Arts Foundation of the Bahamas) and Raily Stiven Yance (Venezuela). This year's writer-in-residence was Marina Reyes Franco (Puerto Rico) and the two visiting guest curators have been Alex Martinez Suarez (Dominican Republic) and Miguel Lopez (Peru/Costa Rica). □



SPORTS



In this Jan. 28, 2018, file photo, Switzerland's Roger Federer holds trophy after defeating Croatia's Marin Cilic during men's singles final at Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

US OPEN '18: Federer tries to end decade drought in New York

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even with all the times Roger Federer held the U.S. Open trophy, he still can't forget the time it slipped through his fingers.

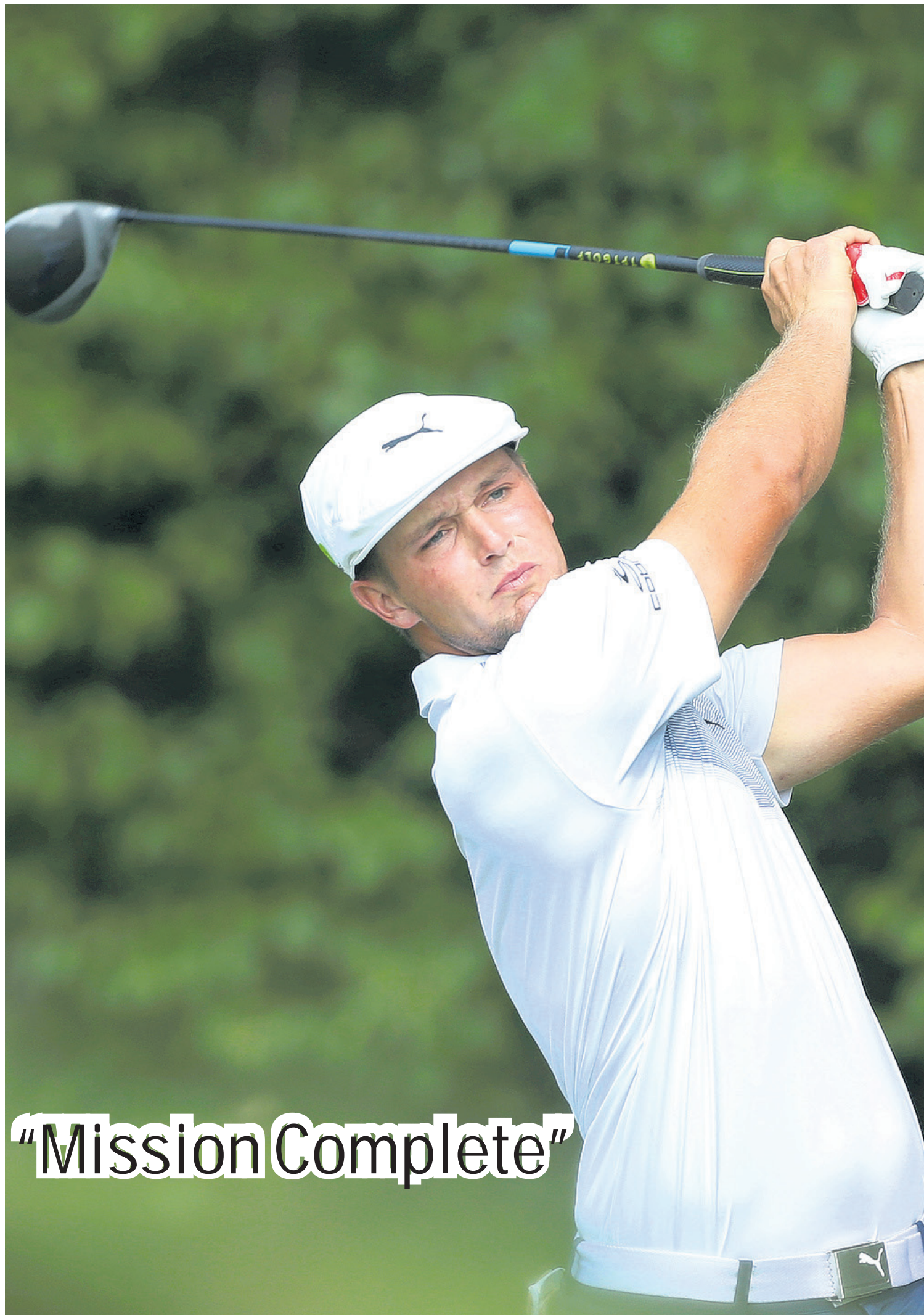
He had won five titles in a row in Flushing Meadows and was a game away from a sixth in 2009 when Juan Martin del Potro pulled out a fourth-set tie-breaker, then won the fifth set.

"I still wish I could have played that match again," Federer said Friday.

He's never been that close to winning the U.S. Open since, just once reaching the final.

That would have been hard to imagine then, when Federer would steamroll into New York at the tail end of some of the greatest seasons in tennis history.

Continued on Page 19



Bryson DeChambeau hits a shot on the fourth hole during the final round of the Northern Trust golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Paramus, N.J.

Associated Press
Page 20

Roger Federer

Continued from Page 18

He was 247-15 from 2004-06, and knew he'd figure things out across seven matches on the hard courts in a city where he is so comfortable. "For a long period I think I was not losing much," Federer said, "and when I came to the Open, I had all the answers for all the guys, all my opponents, all conditions, wind, you know, night, day. I really embraced everything about New York." Still does, which is why — at age 37, and a full decade removed from his last title at the place — Federer believes he can succeed again at the year's final Grand Slam tournament and collect a male-record 21st major when main-draw play begins Monday. A sixth U.S. Open title would break a tie with Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras for the most in the professional era. "Well, I mean, it would mean the world to me," he said.

Novak Djokovic just beat Federer in the final in Cincinnati, and the Wimbledon champion might be the favorite in New York. Defending champion Rafael Nadal is the top seed after taking back the No. 1 ranking that Federer had regained earlier this season for the first time in five years. And del Potro is up to a career-best No. 3 in the world and proved again he could handle Federer at the U.S. Open when he stopped him last year in the quarterfinals.

Yet few would count out No. 2 seed Federer, even as erratic as his gifted game looked against Djokovic on Sunday in Ohio.

"If you are playing well before, is easier to play well in the Grand Slam, no? No doubt of that," Nadal said. "At the same time it's true that especially a few players are able to increase the level of concentration, the level of tennis, level of intensity in some places. If you have to do it, this is one of the places."

Federer hasn't done it in the biggest moments in New York over the last decade. The loss to del Potro was followed by semifinal defeats against Djokovic in both 2010 and 2011, blowing two match points in both.

He finally got back to the final again in 2015 but was beaten by Djokovic, then had to miss the 2016 event because of a knee injury. He won the Australian Open and Wimbledon in a resurgent 2017 but tweaked his back while reaching the Montreal final and knew his body and his game weren't in shape by the time he got to New York.

"I knew from the get-go it was not going to be possible for me to win," Federer said. "Everything would have had to fall into place." So he was even more cautious in monitoring his schedule this year, sitting out the clay-court season again and pulling out of Toronto, making Cincinnati his only hard-court warmup. That's left him only four tournaments in five months, perhaps explaining some of the shots that once were winners but were sprayed around the court against Djokovic.

"It's a fine line of how fit do you need to be and how much tennis can you play to be competitive?" Hall of Famer Rod Laver said. "And if you're not able to go get the match practice, then you've got to rely on being competitive on the other side of the coin, which is how fit can you be. He certainly is fit enough but mentally in the final, I could tell he was sort of down. You could tell he was just frustrated with some of the shots that he played."

Federer won't second-guess his scheduling, believing he's made the right decisions for his preparation. Nor will he kick himself over the U.S. Opens lost over the last decade.

"I won the U.S. Open five times. So I stand here pretty happy, to be quite honest," Federer said. "It's not like, 'God, the U.S. Open never worked out for me.' It hasn't the last couple years, but it's all good." □



In this Sept. 4, 2017, file photo, Roger Federer, of Switzerland, makes a return against Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, in a fourth-round match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York.

Associated Press

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DeChambeau sails to victory in FedEx Cup playoff opener



Tiger Woods hits a tee shot on the fifth hole during the final round of the Northern Trust golf tournament, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, in Paramus, N.J.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP) —

Bryson DeChambeau completed the first stage of his mission by winning The Northern Trust.

The next one is up to Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk.

Staked to a four-shot lead,

DeChambeau never let anyone closer than two shots, ended the threat with consecutive birdies and closed with a 2-under 69 for a four-shot victory over Tony Finau on Sunday in the FedEx Cup opener.

DeChambeau won for the second time this year, both

times against some of the strongest fields. He moved to the top of the FedEx Cup standings and was all but assured of being one of the top five seeds at the Tour Championship who have a clear shot at the \$10 million bonus.

Also on his mind is playing

for no money at all at the Ryder Cup.

DeChambeau narrowly missed earning one of the eight automatic spots for the U.S. team when he missed the cut at the PGA Championship. Furyk makes three of his four captain's picks a week from Tuesday, and it will be tough to ignore a 24-year-old Californian with victories at the Memorial and a FedEx Cup playoff event. He moves to No. 12 in the world.

"To be able to hold the lead and keep the lead for the whole time ... was great," DeChambeau said. "If I can keep playing the way I am, I think I can do great things."

He didn't need to be great at Ridgewood Country Club.

DeChambeau, who stayed on the practice range until it was dark Saturday night, came out firing with two straight birdies to stretch the lead to six shots. His only mistakes were a pair of three-putt bogeys on the front nine, the second one at No. 9 that reduced his lead to two shots over Aaron Wise.

But not for long.

Wise's threat ended with a bogey on No. 16, about the time DeChambeau got up-and-down from just short of the reachable par-4 12th for birdie. No one got any closer the rest of the way.

Finau also made a strong statement about a captain's pick. Furyk invited Finau to join a small group of Americans who played Le Golf Nacional the weekend before the British Open. He was playing with Furyk at the PGA Championship when Finau tied a tournament record with 10 birdies in the second round. And while he stared five shots back on a course where the greens were as firm as they have been all week, Finau closed with a 68 to finish alone in second. Finau cracked the top 20 in the world for the first time in his career.

"If I'm in the conversation, this doesn't hurt my chances, I don't believe," Finau said. "I had a solid week

all around. My game feels good and I feel confident. Whatever his decision is, I'll be ready to play."

Billy Horschel (68) and Cameron Smith (69) tied for third.

Ryan Palmer also felt like a winner. He came into the FedEx Cup playoffs at No. 100 — the top 100 advance to the second stage next week at the TPC Boston — and Palmer delivered a 65 on Sunday highlighted by a wedge he holed for eagle on the par-5 third hole.

He tied for fifth, along with Wise (67) and Adam Scott (69), and moved all the way to No. 50, all but assuring a spot in the third playoff event outside Philadelphia.

Dustin Johnson's only consolation was four birdies over the final four holes for a 68 that enabled him to stay No. 1 in the world over U.S. Open and PGA champion Brooks Koepka by a narrow margin.

Tiger Woods, coming off a runner-up finish at the PGA Championship, never got anything going. He closed with a 70 and tied for 40th, 14 shots out of the lead.

"I'm sure you guys are used to seeing me win five times a year or more," Woods said. "It's not that easy to win out here. What you're seeing is that I'm close, and just one shot here, one shot there per day, flips momentum."

Nick Watney was among six players who moved from outside the top 100 to advance to the Dell Technologies Championship, which starts Friday. The others were Scott Stallings, Jhonattan Vegas, Bronson Burgoon, Brian Stuard and Danny Lee.

DeChambeau now has three victories in the 13 months, and he has spent plenty of practice rounds with Woods.

"He's very fiery," Woods said. "We all know he's extremely intelligent, but his heart, he gives it everything he has and is always trying to get better. He's a tough kid. He's been through a lot in his life, and he's worked hard to get to where he's at." □



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China's Su Bingtian wins 100 meters in Asian Games record

By JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Su Bingtian gave world junior champion Lalu Muhammad Zohri a taste of what it's like to race against the fastest men on the continent. The Asian record holder from China was the hot favorite for the Asian Games gold medal in the 100 meters, but the crowd in Jakarta was there to support their 18-year-old local hope from the earthquake-ravaged island of Lombok. Su took command early and controlled the race with 40 meters to go, finishing in a games record 9.92 seconds — one-hundredth outside his continental mark.

"I don't mind about the time, it was about getting the win," Su said. "I knew if I got a good start, no one (here) can beat me." He didn't get a great start, but had the experience to keep his cool. "I felt a lot of more pressure here," he said. "I don't think I'll feel that much at the



China's Su Bingtian celebrates after winning the men's 100m final during the athletics competition at the 18th Asian Games at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018.

world championships." Tosin Ogunode, younger brother of 2014 champion Femi Ogunode, got silver for Qatar in a photo finish from Japan's Olympic relay silver medalist Ryota Yamagata after they both

finished in 10.00. Su and Zohri progressed steadily into Sunday night's final, posting matching times in their opening heats, and progressing comfortably into the final through the semis.

That's where the similarities ended. Zohri, who won the 100 at the world juniors in Finland in July to become an instant star in Indonesia ahead of the games, was slow out of the blocks and never made it up before

placing seventh. Still, his 10.20 was a personal best and an important learning experience. In a surprising women's 100 final, Nigeria-born Bahrain sprinter Edidiong Odiong dipped late to finish in 11.30 and edge India's Dutee Chand (11.32) and 2014 champion Wei Yongli of China (11.33) in a photo finish.

World championship silver medalist Salwa Naser won the women's 400 in 50.09, improving the meet record she set in the heats. Her win was at the expense of another junior world champion. India's Hima Das, who won the world junior title in Finland in July, collected silver in 50.79.

China picked up other titles with Olympic silver medalist and world champion Gong Lijiao defending her Asian Games shot put title with a best mark of 19.66 meters and Wang Jianan, a bronze medalist at the 2015 world championships, setting a games record 8.24 meters in the long jump. □

Associated Press

Torres opens J-League account as Sagan Tosu beats Osaka 3-0

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Fernando Torres finally opened his J-League account with the third goal in Sagan Tosu's

3-0 home win over fellow strugglers Gamba Osaka on Sunday, as the Spaniard's team took the proverbial six-pointer in the

relegation dogfight. The former Atletico Madrid, Liverpool and Chelsea striker notched his first goal in Japan on Wednesday night, in a 3-0 Emperor's Cup win over Vissel Kobe, before scoring his first league goal in his seventh start in the

league, adding the 86th-minute insurance goal after strikes from Yuji Ono and Mu Kanazaki had given Tosu a 2-0 lead. The J-League kicked off the weekend on Friday night with a meeting between Kashima Antlers and Jubilo Iwata — sched-

uled to give the home team an extra day of rest before their Asian Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Tuesday — with an added-on time penalty kick from Yoshito Okubo salvaging an unlikely point for Jubilo in a 1-1 draw. □



Sagan Tosu's Fernando Torres, second from right, tries to score a goal during their J-League soccer match against Gamba Osaka on Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018 in Tosu, western Japan.

Associated Press

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Dixon still leads as IndyCar championship chase tightens up

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

MADISON, Ill. (AP) — Scott Dixon has done very little wrong the past five weeks, being a model of consistency in the midst of an IndyCar championship chase he hopes will deliver him a fifth title in the open-wheel series.

Yet his lead has been trimmed by more than half. Alexander Rossi took another nibble out of it Saturday night, when he managed to coax about six extra laps out of his final fuel stop at Gateway Motorsports Park. Rossi's strategy to make one fewer stop than the leaders paid off with a second-place finish behind Will Power — and one spot ahead of Dixon, whose lead dwindled to 26 points with two races left in the season.

"It's always tough when it comes down to the wire," said Dixon, who had a fifth straight top-five finish, "but I think you have that situation throughout the season. Everybody at this level, you do everything you can to try and get one race win. It's no different week in, week out."

Dixon did precisely that during the middle of the season, winning three times to build what looked like an insurmountable points lead. But it's been Rossi on the tear down the stretch, his back-to-back wins at Mid-Ohio and Pocono and runner-up run at Gateway putting the pressure on. Now, the question is wheth-



Scott Dixon, of New Zealand, drives during the IndyCar auto race at Gateway Motorsports Park on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in Madison, Ill.

Associated Press

er there's enough time to finish the job.

The final two races are road courses, beginning next week with IndyCar's return to Portland, Oregon, after a decade-long absence and culminating in the finale at Sonoma, where double points are on the line.

"The goal right now is just to hopefully get within 20 points going into Sonoma, and then it can really be about who beats the other person-type-of-thing," Rossi said. "That's where our focus is, and we have found

some road course performance definitely in the second half of this year, so got two road courses coming up. Portland is a very unknown challenge for us all, so it'll be interesting."

Rossi's championship rally nearly came to a spectacular halt Saturday night, when he was side by side with Power going through Turn 2. His Andretti Autosport ride got wildly loose — it looked like a dirt late model sliding through the corner — but Rossi somehow managed to keep it

off the wall.

Asked what was going through his mind, he replied: "A lot of bad words."

"It was one of those ones where I had pretty much given up, and it just came back really probably by the grace of God," he said, "because I was on the brakes and ready to hit the wall, so it just kind of corrected itself, and that was a pretty big blessing I got there."

Power went on to win the race, his first with team owner Roger Penske on the radio calling his strategy,

and managed to keep his own faint championship hopes alive.

While Rossi was trying to save every last drop of fuel, and Dixon was stuck in no-man's land on his own strategy, Power was able to go full-throttle down the stretch. That that allowed him to overcome Rossi and keep Dixon at bay, and trim his championship deficit to 68 points.

It's a tall order but hardly out of the question.

"If they're at the front, yes, I mean, we have to take risks. We have to make things happen," he said. "Kind of like (Saturday night), we just said: 'Let's go. Let's run hard. We've got to beat these guys. We can't finish behind anymore.' So I'm going to be aggressive with them racing-wise."

"If there's a half gap there, I'm going to go for it," he added. "You have to. They know it."

Power has reason to believe he still has a chance.

He was in a similar deficit when the series headed to Indianapolis in May, first for the Grand Prix and then for the Indy 500, where there were double points on the line — similar to the stakes for the final two races.

And when he swept to victory in the road race, and made his big oval breakthrough in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," Power left town with a lead in the standings.

"We can absolutely do it. It's mathematically possible," he said. "Absolutely." □

MotoGP: British GP canceled after track deemed 'too unsafe'



Safety officials talk with track marshals as the British MotoGP Grand Prix is delayed because of heavy rain at Silverstone, England, Sunday Aug. 26, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) — The British Grand Prix became the first MotoGP race to be canceled in 38 years on Sunday after heavy rain left standing water on parts of the new track at Silverstone.

Officials said track conditions were deemed "too unsafe" to race on. The start time had been brought forward by 90 minutes because of a forecast of heavy rain.

MotoGP race director Mike

Webb said the new surface at Silverstone, which was laid in February, was to blame.

"We've had a number of years' experience here in very wet conditions recently with the old surface and have been able to run races," Webb said.

"This year, with the new surface, is the first time we've encountered quite so much standing water in critical places on the track. So yes it's a direct result of the track surface."

Jorge Lorenzo had been due to start on pole position, with championship leader Marc Marquez in fifth place.

"We are very sorry for all the fans," Marquez tweeted, "we are the first ones that we want to ride but safety is the priority."

The last MotoGP race to be called off because of weather or track conditions was Austria in 1980.

The British GP is the 12th of 19 races on the MotoGP calendar. □

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FANTASY PLAYS: Shifting values with average draft position

By SCOTT ENGEL
Associated Press

For many fantasy football players, average draft position, or ADP, give a good barometer of when certain players may be picked — a useful planning tool for draft day.

But ADP should be treated as a loose, not rigid, guide to what to fully expect. Every draft is different and ADP doesn't always fully reflect a player's true value, as many drafters in the mainstream are not as fully informed as more savvy players. Here are some players who are being overvalued or undervalued based on their current ADP as compiled by FantasyPros in point-per-reception leagues.

OVERDRAFTED

Jerick McKinnon, RB, San Francisco (25th overall): There are very high expectations for McKinnon in a 49ers offense that is stirring a lot of buzz. While he is versatile and fast, McKinnon may not be built for heavy featured-back duty at 5-9, 205. He already has a knee injury that will cost him the rest of the preseason, and when Matt Breida returns from a shoulder injury, he may cut into McKinnon's workload, too. Picking McKinnon early in the third round is not advised, even if you totally miss out on acquiring him.

Rex Burkhead, RB, New England (71): Experienced fantasy players know you can never fully trust a New England running back. Word recently came out that Burkhead is trying to play through a minor tear



Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Peyton Barber (25) runs 14-yards for a touchdown against the Detroit Lions during the first half of an NFL preseason football game Friday, Aug. 24, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

in his knee. Health and workload concerns lead to regular concerns and no upside, so avoid Burkhead this season.

Demaryius Thomas, WR, Denver (41): The widespread assumption is that Case Keenum is going to revive the Denver passing game and that Thomas' numbers will rebound accordingly. But Keenum must prove he is no one-year wonder who may revert to looking like a journeyman after leaving Minnesota. The Broncos may also be concerned that Thomas' best days are behind him, as they drafted Courtland Sutton as their possible next big playmaker.

Brandin Cooks, WR, Los Angeles Rams (43): He was a

minor disappointment last season in New England, as Cooks only caught 65 balls. Now he is with the Rams, where Cooper Kupp and Robert Woods are already established WR targets, plus Todd Gurley gets a lot of looks, as well. Cooks will still be relevant, but could also be very inconsistent and will be too frustrating for a guy with a fourth-round price tag.

Jordan Reed, TE, Washington (87): Fantasy players who still get lured in by Reed should simply stop chasing his 2015 season and the remaining shreds of it from 2016. Reed played in only six games last season, and has missed 16 games over the past three years. That's a full NFL season, of course.

He is much too risky to be the ninth tight end off the board.

Drew Brees, QB, New Orleans (63): His ADP is based more on reputation than recent trends that may continue going forward. Last season, the Saints morphed into a team with outstanding RB play and a good defense. Brees no longer had to constantly fling the ball all over the yard as in the past, and look for the same approach in 2018. You're not going to see 4,800 yards or 31-plus TDs again.

UNDERDRAFTED

Tarik Cohen, RB, Chicago (82): He is going to be one of the true breakout performers of the 2018 season in PPR formats. New head coach Matt Nagy is going

to unleash the explosive all-around talent of Cohen in an improving Bears offense. Cohen is a fine value selection who will truly emerge as an upside performer this year. Peyton Barber, RB, Tampa Bay (134): Obviously, most fantasy owners do not buy into Barber as the team's current starter and expect rookie Ronald Jones to quickly emerge and soar past him. But Barber could hold onto the job for a while, as Jones is having trouble adjusting to the pro game. Barber can be a good flex player for an extensive stretch to open the season.

Robby Anderson, WR, New York Jets (95): Last year, Anderson averaged nearly 15 yards a catch and scored seven times, despite the Jets dealing with QB issues. This season, the quarterback position should have more stability, so you should expect Anderson to continue his emergence as an exciting playmaker. He'll go over 1,000 yards this time. Calvin Ridley, WR, Atlanta (123): There should be more optimism surrounding what may be the best WR in this year's rookie class. Ridley is going to be an electric complement to Julio Jones; he's the No. 2 WR the Falcons have been seeking. If you nab Ridley in the double-digit rounds, you are really going to enjoy the returns when he has some impressive outings this year. Ricky Seals-Jones, TE, Arizona (226): He is going near the end of drafts, but Seals-Jones could vie for top 10 fantasy tight end status this season. □

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FireEye: Tech firms' secret weapon against disinformation

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This week has seen major social media sites step up their policing of online disinformation campaigns.

Google disabled dozens of YouTube channels and other accounts linked to a state-run Iranian broadcaster running a political-influence campaign.

Facebook removed 652 suspicious pages, groups and accounts linked to Russia and Iran.

Twitter took similar action shortly thereafter.

What did they have in common? The security firm FireEye.

Best known for its work on high-profile cyberattacks against companies including Target, JPMorgan Chase and Sony Pictures, FireEye is emerging as a key player in the fight against election interference and disinformation campaigns. Founded in 2004, FireEye is based in Silicon Valley and staffed with a roster of former military and law-enforcement cyberexperts. "They've really become the Navy SEALs of cybersecurity, especially for next-generation cybersecurity



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Bernie Sanders: An Accessory to Terror at the Gaza Border



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The Gaza border conflict is being fought on two battlefields simultaneously. One is the battle at the border fence, where the aggressors use Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs, rocks, slingsh...
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This undated image provided by the cybersecurity firm FireEye shows a Tweet from a social media persona related to a group called "Liberty Front Press" using the Twitter handle "@Berniecratss."

Associated Press

threats," said GBH Insights analyst Dan Ives.

Lee Foster, manager of information operations analysis at FireEye, said his team works within the company's intelligence outfit, which researches not only "info-ops" — like the Iran-linked social media activity it recently uncovered — but espionage, financial crime and other forms of vulnerability and exploitation.

Specialist teams at FireEye focus on particular areas of cyberthreats, each with their own expertise and language capabilities.

"We kind of operate like a private-sector intelligence operation," he said.

FireEye was founded by Ashar Aziz, who developed a system for spotting threats that haven't been tracked before, unlike older companies that sold firewalls

or anti-virus programs that block known malware.

Aziz, a former Sun Microsystems engineer, created a system that uses software to simulate a computer network and check programs for suspicious behavior, before allowing them into the network itself.

FireEye raised its profile in 2014 by acquiring Mandiant, known for expertise in assessing damage

and tracing the source of cyberattacks.

Mandiant founder Kevin Mandia, a former U.S. Air Force investigator, is now FireEye's CEO. While businesses are spending more on information security, FireEye itself has spent heavily on research, development, sales and marketing. That has led to struggles to remain profitable, as heavy investments offset revenue growth.

Mandia said that during the three months ended June 30, FireEye's email security found 6 million spear-phishing attacks, a type of hacking, and its security products alerted companies of attempts to breach security 29 million times. That's important, Mandia said, because most of FireEye's products are deployed behind their client's existing firewalls or antivirus software, so everything FireEye catches has already evaded other defenses, he said. "We are the investigators called in when the processes, people, and technology fail to prevent a security breach or incident," he said. "We find the gaps in the security fabric and we find the needle in the haystack." □

Insider Q&A: AT&T entertainment exec on future of video



This undated photo provided by AT&T Inc. shows David Christopher, who runs AT&T's wireless and entertainment businesses.

Associated Press

By MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — David Christopher, who runs AT&T's wireless and entertainment businesses, has a bird's eye view of how streaming media and video are evolving.

AT&T recently completed its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner, a deal designed to help traditional media companies compete better with nimble tech services such as Netflix. Soon after the deal closed, AT&T

launched WatchTV, a \$15-a-month streaming service that offers more than 30 TV channels, including Time Warner channels TNT and TBS.

The Associated Press spoke with Christopher about how people are consuming media and what role wireless companies play. Remarks have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Why do you think customers will choose Watch TV over other TV packages?

A: There's no "one size fits all" anymore for video. Video is increasingly very personal and we think Watch TV is a great fit for many customers that want a smaller bundle of content.

Q: How else can AT&T use the Time Warner content?

A: There are lots of opportunities that we envision to drive innovation on behalf of consumers. You could have the ability to share a portion of a TV show that you thought was really funny or really impactful.

Q: How are people's viewing habits evolving?

A: There's a dramatic shift toward digital and a dramatic shift toward mobile. The number of hours people are watching linear television is dropping. The number of hours on mobile and digital is rising. It's particularly true among young audiences. It's less about only watching on your big screen and much more about watching what's specific to you on a more personal device. □

'Private' mess: Musk's credibility goes from bad to worse

By TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — First it was the shocking tweet that funding was secured and Tesla may go private, then a statement that the money wasn't locked down after all. Two weeks later it's never mind, the whole deal is off.

Welcome to the disarray of Elon Musk, the impulsive genius and architect of cutting-edge car, rocket and solar panel companies built nearly from scratch.

Chaos, though, comes with a price. Experts say it all could wind up with Tesla exposed to a fine for misleading investors. And even though Musk has almost legendary status, the episode could further erode his credibility with stakeholders who have endured multiple broken promises and years of losses as a public company.

"Prior to the go-private episode, his credibility was in question, although investors still had overall confidence in the guy," Erik Gordon, a business and law professor at the University of Michigan, said Saturday. "This whole go-private episode has taken his credibility close to zero."

The bizarre story began Aug. 7 when Musk, while driving to the airport, tweeted he was considering taking the company private and that funding had been secured for the deal. Investors would be paid \$420 per share, a 23 percent premium over the Aug. 6 closing price. No other details were given, but Tesla's stock shot up 11 percent that day. At \$420, buying all Tesla shares would cost around \$72 billion.

Then, in a blog post six days later, Musk wrote the mon-



In this Aug. 8, 2018, file photo a Tesla emblem is seen on the back end of a Model S in the Tesla showroom in Santa Monica, Calif.

ey wasn't locked down, revealing that Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund was the source of the cash but was still doing due diligence. Musk said the Tesla board and some big investors had been told he was considering taking the company private before he tweeted that information. He said he tweeted the disclosure so everyone could have the information.

Musk, who owns 20 percent of Tesla, also said he expected only a third of shareholders to sell, meaning the deal would be valued around \$24 billion.

Late Friday came a statement from Musk saying that after talking to investors, the plan to go private would be scrubbed. Big institutional investors told him they had limits on how much they could sink into a private company.

The episode drew attention from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which reportedly is investigating Tesla for possible

manipulation of the stock price. At least two lawsuits seeking class-action status also have been filed alleging Musk broke securities laws by making it sound like financing for the buyout was lined up.

James Cox, a Duke University professor who specializes in corporate governance and securities law, said regulations prohibit companies from making misleading statements that influence the markets.

"The fact that he's now backing off so quickly, within a matter of weeks, indicates the insincerity in which the first statement was made," Cox said.

While Musk disclosed the possible buy-back on Aug. 7, he didn't reveal all contingencies including that the Saudi fund had to investigate, said Peter Henning, a Wayne State University law professor and former SEC attorney. "I think his most recent statement shows that this wasn't thought through," Henning said. "That's going to be

a concern for the SEC because that's how investors can be misled, with incomplete information."

The SEC also is likely to look at Musk's disclosure to some investors before others, which also is prohibited if there's reason to believe the investors might trade stock based on the information, Cox said.

Calling the whole thing off, though, might also be a defense for Musk, Henning said. "He could say I was just testing the waters. I was just thinking out loud, so I didn't mean to mislead anyone on this."

Normally, if a company was mulling a plan to go private, the CEO would notify the board and a process would be put in place to evaluate the move, Henning says. Lawyers would be involved and it would be disclosed in a filing with the SEC.

Cox predicts that Tesla will settle with the SEC, pay a penalty and agree not to violate securities laws in the future.

On top of all this drama, last week Musk disclosed in an interview with the New York Times that he was stressed out from trying to meet long-delayed production targets for the Model 3 mass-market electric car. He said he was working 120 hours a week and had to take Ambien to sleep.

Investors stuck with the company, although since the run-up on Aug. 7 shares have retreated. They closed Friday at \$322.82, 6 percent below the opening price the day of the tweet.

Tesla declined comment Saturday. Six board members said in a statement Friday night that the board supports Musk and Tesla.

Some bullish investors still say Tesla has great growth potential. Shareholder ARK Invest recently wrote to Musk urging him to keep the company public and saying that \$420 per share is too low. But Consumer Edge analyst Jamie Albertine, who had been a Tesla optimist, cut his rating on the company and urged the board to bring on a seasoned executive to help manage it.

On Saturday Albertine said that while second-quarter earnings indicated positive trends, the events of the past few weeks are "enough to make us uncomfortable." □

Average US price of gas drops 2 cents per gallon to \$2.91

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline has dropped two cents a gallon over the past two weeks, to \$2.91.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey says that's more than 50 cents a gallon higher than at this time last year. Lundberg said Sunday it is likely that gas prices will

continue to drop slightly. She says that's because refiners have increased capacity and current demand is weak. In California, the average price was \$3.61 per gallon, down a

penny from two weeks earlier. The highest average price in the contiguous 48 states and Hawaii is \$3.69 in the San Francisco Bay area. The lowest average is \$2.51 in Jackson, Mississippi. □



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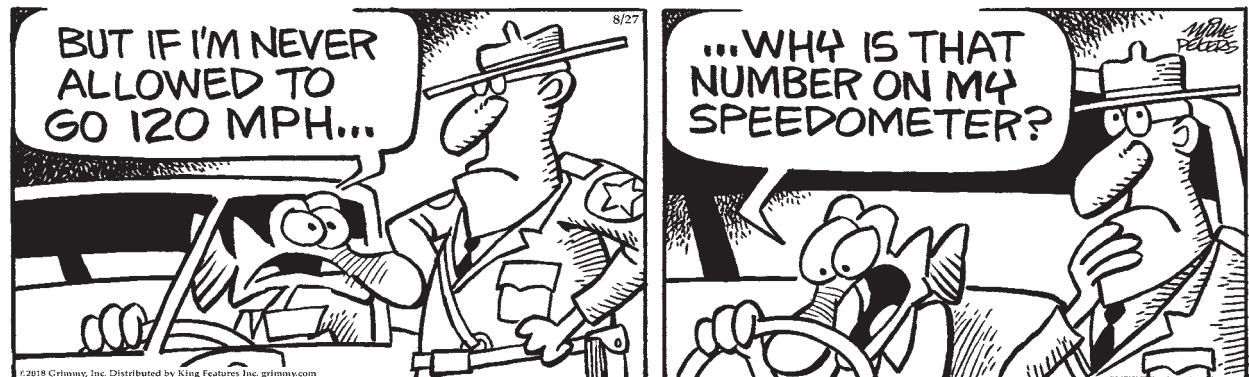
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Conceptis Sudoku

2		6			4	3		5
	8		1	3	7		6	
			5					
1	6			5		2	9	
	3						5	
	4	8		2			1	7
					9			
	2		6	8	1		3	
6		3	2			8		1

Difficulty Level ★

8/27

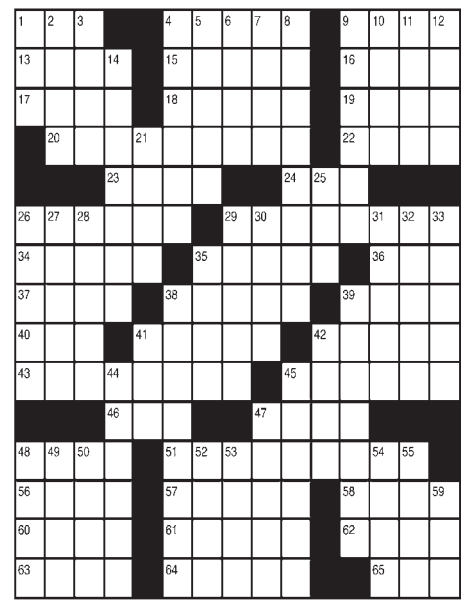
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	9	8	4	2	6	5	7	3
5	7	6	1	8	3	4	9	2
4	2	3	9	7	5	1	8	6
8	5	1	3	9	4	6	2	7
6	4	2	8	5	7	3	1	9
9	3	7	6	1	2	8	5	4
3	1	5	2	6	9	7	4	8
7	6	9	5	4	8	2	3	1
2	8	4	7	3	1	9	6	5

ACROSS

- Winnabagos & Fleetwoods
- Zeal
- Part of the foot
- Needs a doctor
- Sifting device
- Vegetable in a health smoothie
- Orderly
- Shoe bottoms
- Element whose symbol is Fe
- Item in the trunk
- Pharmacy orders
- Plenty
- Arrest
- Threaded fasteners
- Sane
- Uncouth
- Beer
- Inventor Whitney
- Family tree member
- Walked the floor
- Twirl
- Cal's place
- Years
- Tranquillity
- Raised
- No longer clean
- Tiny fellow
- Singer Joan
- Lose color
- Helping
- Smell
- Mortgages, for example
- In ___; poor
- ___ about; praise highly
- Big
- Fence opening
- Observed
- Enjoyed a snow sport
- Uncooked



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

8/27/18

4 Valuables

- Street uprisings
- Sandwich shop
- Turn ___; flip
- Felt miffed about
- With hands on hips
- Unusual
- Lump of dirt
- Female birds
- Least fresh
- Arguments
- Lung contents
- Climb
- Mean
- "Home on the ___"
- Participated in a marathon
- Matures
- Asian nation
- Wonderland visitor
- All ___ up; in a row
- Path
- Hidden traps
- Grabbing

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

GENE	SCRUB	PRAM
OXEN	ARISE	RICAR
TAGS	LOSANGELES	
OMA	LOOK	REEDS
THINK	DEN	
ALIENS	ROASTS	
RIVET	SCOOT	AIL
MAID	GABOR	ABLE
YRS	PRISM	BILLS
SMILED	ARREST	
NOW	BRASS	
MESSY	JOEY	PUN
ACCUSATION	POPE	
CHAR	DELTA	HOOT
SOME	OATHS	INNS

8/27/18

DOWN

- Galloped
- Competes
- ___ in the face; insult

- Chum
- Verse writer
- Swerved
- Talked back
- Spree
- Golf course shout
- "Queen for ___" of old TV
- Bar soap brand
- ___ up; absorb
- New Delhi garb
- Close
- "___ life!"; cry to a busybody
- Morning grass moisture

New drone shots show isolated Amazonian tribe in Brazil



This 2017 photo released by the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) shows a "maloca," or long house, in Vale do Javari, Amazonas state, Brazil.

By **BEATRICE CHRISTOFARO**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — New aerial images give a rare glimpse of an isolated tribe in Brazil's Amazon, showing 16 people walking through jungle as well as a deforested area with a crop.

In a clip released Tuesday night, one of the tribespeople appears to be carrying a bow and arrow.

Brazil's agency for indigenous affairs, Funai, said it captured the drone shots during an expedition last year to monitor isolated communities, but only released them now to protect their study.

Researchers monitored the tribe in Vale do Javari, an indigenous territory in the southwestern part of the state of Amazonas. There are 11 confirmed isolated groups in the area - more than anywhere else in Brazil. "These images have the power to make society and the government reflect on the importance of protecting these groups," said Wallace Bastos, Funai's president.

Bruno Pereira, who coordinates Funai's study of isolated groups in the region, said these documentations also help researchers study their culture. The agency

has not yet been able to identify the name of the tribe, though it has guesses about its ethnicity and what language it speaks.

"The more we know about isolated communities' way of living, the more equipped we are to protect them," he said.

Overall, the agency has registered 107 isolated tribes in Latin America's largest nation. While Funai takes photos and videos sometimes, it has not been making contact with them for over 30 years.

Pereira told the Associated

Press these communities are aware of the cities and farms in their surroundings, but they often choose to isolate themselves due to traumatic experiences with the outside world.

External contact can often be deadly, ending in massacres or epidemics wiping out tribes. Last year, a group of illegal gold miners allegedly killed 10 people in an isolated community.

"If they wanted contact with the outside world, they would seek out ways to communicate with us," Pereira said. □

Associated Press



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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Marijke Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Jeancarlo Trinidad

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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Aspirin disappoints for avoiding first heart attack, stroke

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

Taking a low-dose aspirin every day has long been known to cut the chances of another heart attack, stroke or other heart problem in people who already have had one, but the risks don't outweigh the benefits for most other folks, major new research finds.

Although it's been used for more than a century, aspirin's value in many situations is still unclear. The latest studies are some of the largest and longest to test this pennies-a-day blood thinner in people who don't yet have heart disease or a blood vessel-related problem. One found that aspirin did not help prevent first strokes or heart attacks in people at moderate risk for one because they had several health threats such as smoking, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

Another tested aspirin in people with diabetes, who are more likely to develop or die from heart problems, and found that the modest benefit it gave was offset by a greater risk of serious bleeding. Aspirin did not help prevent cancer as had been hoped.

And fish oil supplements, also tested in the study of people with diabetes, failed to help.



This Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018 photo shows an arrangement of aspirin pills in New York.

"There's been a lot of uncertainty among doctors around the world about prescribing aspirin" beyond those for whom it's now recommended, said one study leader, Dr. Jane Armitage of the University of Oxford in England. "If you're healthy, it's probably not worth taking it."

The research was discussed Sunday at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Munich. The aspirin studies used 100 milligrams a day, more than the 81-milligram pills commonly sold in the United States but still considered

low dose. Adult strength is 325 milligrams.

WHO'S REALLY AT RISK?

A Boston-led study gave aspirin or dummy pills to 12,546 people who were thought to have a moderate risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke within a decade because of other health issues.

After five years, 4 percent of each group had suffered a heart problem — far fewer than expected, suggesting these people were actually at low risk, not moderate. Other medicines they were taking to

lower blood pressure and cholesterol may have cut their heart risk so much that aspirin had little chance of helping more, said the study leader, Dr. J. Michael Gaziano of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

One percent of aspirin takers had stomach or intestinal bleeding, mostly mild — twice as many as those on dummy pills. Aspirin users also had more nosebleeds, indigestion, reflux or belly pain. Bayer sponsored the study, and many researchers consult for the aspirin maker. Results were pub-

lished by the journal *Lancet*.

ASPIRIN FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

People with diabetes have a higher risk of heart problems and strokes from a blood clot, but also a higher risk of bleeding. Guidelines vary on which of them should consider aspirin.

Oxford researchers randomly assigned 15,480 adults with Type 1 or 2 diabetes but otherwise in good health and with no history of heart problems to take either aspirin, 1 gram of fish oil, both substances, or dummy pills every day.

After seven and a half years, there were fewer heart problems among aspirin users but more cases of serious bleeding, so they largely traded one risk for another.

FISH OIL RESULTS

The same study also tested omega-3 fatty acids, the good oils found in salmon, tuna and other fish. Supplement takers fared no better than those given dummy capsules — 9 percent of each group suffered a heart problem.

"We feel very confident that there doesn't seem to be a role for fish oil supplements for preventing heart disease," said study leader Dr. Louise Bowman of the University of Oxford. □



In this image made from video, scientists examine the fossil of a horse in Yakutia, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018.

Associated Press

Scientists find perfectly preserved ancient foal in Siberia

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian scientists have found the carcass of an ancient foal perfectly preserved in the Siberian permafrost.

The fossil discovered in

the region of Yakutia has its skin, hair, hooves and tail preserved. Yakutia is also famous having wooly mammoth fossils found in the permafrost. Scientists from Russia's Northeast

Federal University who presented the discovery Thursday said the foal is estimated to be 30,000 to 40,000 years old. They believe it was about two months old when it died. Semyon Grigoryev, head of the Mammoth Museum in the regional capital of Yakutsk, was surprised to see the perfect state of the find. He noted it's the best-preserved ancient foal found to date. The foal was discovered in the Batagaika crater, a huge 100-meter (328-foot) deep depression in the East Siberian taiga. □

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'Black Panther' costume designer celebrated in retrospective

By KRISTEN DE GROOT

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — For more than 30 years, costume designer Ruth E. Carter's creations have brought the African-American experience to life on the big screen, from 19th century slave ships in "Amistad" to 1980s Brooklyn in "Do the Right Thing," to the Afrofuturistic land of Wakanda in "Black Panther."

Now, she's bringing the spectrum of her work to Pittsburgh for a new exhibit called "Heroes & Sheroes: The Art & Influence of Ruth E. Carter in Black Cinema." The show opens Saturday at the Senator John Heinz History Center, showcasing more than 40 costumes from nine movies, and runs through Dec. 2.

"I'd been thinking about doing a retrospective for some time, and I really do love Pittsburgh, so it seemed like a comfortable



In this photo made on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018, Courtney Beecraft checks costumes from film "Black Panther" as work continues installing an exhibit of Ruth E. Carter cinematic costumes at Pittsburgh's Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

place to test the waters for the exhibit," Carter said in a recent phone interview.

Carter has worked on more than 50 films since she made the switch from de-

signing for theater companies and dance troupes in the early 1980s, when Spike Lee hired her as a costume designer on "School Daze." They've since collaborat-

ed on more than a dozen movies.

She's also earned two Academy Award nominations for best costume design, first for Lee's "Malcolm

X" in 1993 — which made her the first African-American nominated in that category — and for Steven Spielberg's historical slave ship drama "Amistad" in 1998. She also was nominated for an Emmy for the 2016 reboot of "Roots."

The exhibit will celebrate her extensive career, and showcase sketches and movie clips alongside the costumes from films including "Amistad," "Sparkle," "I think that costume design is somewhat of a mystery to people, and this is an opportunity to learn about the costume designer as an artist and a storyteller," Carter said.

"In the 35 years that I have been doing costumes, I've found there is a narrative and a voice to my creative process and the films that I have done, which have lined up to tell the story of African-Americans in this country." □

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With minuscule drop, 'Crazy Rich Asians' is No. 1 again

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The opening weekend for "Crazy Rich Asians" was historic. Its second weekend was even more impressive. The romantic comedy sensation slid just 6 percent from its chart-topping debut to again lead the box office with \$25 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Almost as many people turned out over the weekend for "Crazy Rich Asians" as they did for its opening Friday-to-Sunday bow — an unheard of hold for a non-holiday release. Drops of close to 50 percent are common for wide releases. But propelled by enthusiastic reviews and an eagerness for a major Hollywood film led by Asian stars, "Crazy Rich Asians" is showing almost unprecedented legs. After opening last weekend with \$35.3 million from Wednesday to Sunday and \$26.5 million over the weekend, the Warner Bros. release — the first Hollywood studio movie in



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Michelle Yeoh, from left, Henry Golding and Constance Wu in a scene from the film "Crazy Rich Asians."

25 years with an all-Asian cast — has already grossed \$76.8 million. The adaptation of Kevin Kwan's bestselling novel, starring Constance Wu and Henry Golding, was helped by weak competition. STX Entertainment's critically slammed R-rated puppet

caper "The Happytime Murders" debuted with \$10.1 million, a career-low wide release for star Melissa McCarthy. The robot-dog fantasy "A.X.L.," from the beleaguered Global Road Entertainment, flopped with \$2.9 million.

But the talk of the weekend was the sustained success of "Crazy Rich Asians," which grossed approximately the same from one Saturday to the next.

"I've been telling my team

that Big Foot sightings are more common than zero percent Saturday drops," said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. Goldstein noted that after a 44 percent Asian-American audience over opening weekend, that percentage fell to 27 percent on the second weekend while Caucasian and Hispanic ticket buyers grew. "The audience is broadening," he said.

The remarkable hold left

many in Hollywood searching for comparisons. While such slim drops or second-week increases regularly happen over holiday weekends, you have to go back to the likes of "The Sixth Sense" (-3.4 percent in August 1999) and "The Fugitive" (-5.6 percent in August 1993) to find something similar.

There are a few other stray examples of movies that held so well without adding substantially more theaters like "Brother Bear," "Puss in Boots" and "Mother's Day," but that's about it. Even "The Help," which also opened mid-August, slid 23.1 percent in 2011 on its way to \$169.7 million domestically and four Oscar nominations including best picture — a path that's not out of the question for "Crazy Rich Asians."

"There's no greater indicator of the enthusiasm of an audience than a minimal drop in a second weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "This isn't the product of opening-weekend hype. This is the product of a great movie resonating very strongly with all audiences. The movie has become a cultural phenomenon." □

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<p>NEW THIS WEEK!</p>	<p>CONSTANCE WU HENRY GOLDING</p> <p>CRAZY RICH ASIANS [PG-13]</p> <p>MON/THU & SUN 3:55 6:35 9:15 FRI-SAT 3:55 6:35 9:15 11:25</p>
	<p>MELISSA MCCARTHY ELIZABETH BANKS</p> <p>THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS [R]</p> <p>MON/THU 5:10 7:20 9:30 FRI 5:10 7:20 9:30 11:35 SAT 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30 11:35 SUN & HOL 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30</p>
	<p>THOMAS JANE BECKY G</p> <p>A-X-L [PG]</p> <p>MON/THU 4:30 6:45 9:00 FRI 4:30 6:45 9:00 11:15 SAT 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00 11:15 SUN & HOL 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00</p>
	<p>JASON STATHAM RUBY ROSE</p> <p>THE MEG [PG-13]</p> <p>MON/THU 4:25 6:55 9:25 FRI 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SAT 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25 11:55 SUN & HOL 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25</p>
<p>MARK WAHLBERG LAUREN COHAN</p> <p>MILE 22 [R]</p> <p>MON/THU 5:15 7:25 9:35 FRI 5:15 7:25 9:35 11:45 SAT 3:05 5:15 7:25 9:35 11:45 SUN & HOL 3:05 5:15 7:25 9:35</p>	<p>KODI SMIT-MCPHEE NATASSIA MALTHE</p> <p>ALPHA [PG-13]</p> <p>MON-FRI 4:40 6:55 9:10 SAT & SUN 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10</p>
<p>EWAN MCGREGOR HAYLEY ATWELL</p> <p>Christopher Robin [PG]</p> <p>MON-FRI 3:50 SAT & SUN 1:45 3:50</p>	<p>TOM CRUISE HENRY CAVILL</p> <p>MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT [PG-13]</p> <p>MON-SUN 6:05 9:05</p>

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Olafur Arnalds' album much more than clever software



This cover image released by Mercury KX shows "re:member," a release by Olafur Arnalds.

Associated Press

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Olafur Arnalds, "re:member" (Mercury KX) Icelandic composer Olafur Arnalds goes far beyond the use of innovative software involving self-playing pianos on "re:member," a

wistful album also incorporating various string ensembles, fast and slow beats and even the human voice as it alternates between being buoyant and calm. Probably best heard on the track "they sink," Stratus, the software Arnalds developed with Halldor Eldjarn, allows him to set values like rhythm and tempo to form a three-element creative loop with a pair of self-playing pianos: they respond to his keyboard playing while Arnalds is in turn affected by their notes and chords. A swirling string section latches onto a gentle piano figure, what sounds like the Stratus is soon enveloped by watery sounds,

the strings make an expanding return and restless drums boost the intensity. "unfold" retains some of the opener's elements but English singer Sohn's layers of wordless vocals over the last minute imbue the pulsing tune with mystery and passion. "saman" is among the album's calmest inlets, a brief composition of soothing piano sounds, "ekki hugsa" is Arnalds at his most intensely hypnotic and the arrangement on "undir" goes the whole nine yards in just over 6 1/2 minutes. No matter where the needle drops on "re:member," Arnalds' talents ensure a memorable experience. □

Neil Simon, Broadway's master of comedy, dies at 91

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Playwright Neil Simon, a master of comedy whose laugh-filled hits such as "The Odd Couple," "Barefoot in the Park" and his "Brighton Beach" trilogy dominated Broadway for decades, has died. He was 91.

Simon died early Sunday of complications from pneumonia at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, said Bill Evans, a long-time friend and spokesman for Shubert Organization theaters.

In the second half of the 20th century, Simon was the American theater's most successful and prolific playwright, often chronicling middle class issues and fears. Starting with "Come Blow Your Horn" in 1961 and continuing into the next century, he rarely stopped working on a new play or musical.

Simon's stage successes included "The Prisoner of Second Avenue," "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," "The Sunshine Boys," "Plaza Suite," "Chapter Two," "Sweet Charity" and "Promises, Promises." But there were other plays and musicals, too — more than 30 in all. For seven months in 1967, he had four productions running at the same time on Broadway: "Barefoot in the Park"; "The Odd Couple"; "Sweet Charity"; and "The Star-Spangled Girl."

Simon was the recipient of four Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, the Kennedy Center honors (1995), four Writers Guild of America



In this Sept. 22, 1994, file photo, American playwright Neil Simon answers questions during an interview in Seattle, Wash.

Awards and an American Comedy Awards Lifetime Achievement honor. In 1983, he had a Broadway theater named after him, and in 2006, he won the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

The bespectacled, mild-looking Simon was a relentless writer — and rewriter. In the introduction to one of the many anthologies of his plays, he wrote: "I am most alive and most fulfilled sitting alone in a room, hoping that those words forming on the paper in the Smith-Corona will be the first perfect play ever written in a single draft."

He was a meticulous joke smith, peppering his plays, especially the early ones, with comic one-liners and humorous situations that

critics said sometimes came at the expense of character and believability. But for much of his career, audiences embraced his work, which often focused on middle-class, urban life. Many of the plots were drawn from his own personal experience.

"I don't write social and political plays, because I've always thought the family was the microcosm of what goes on in the world," he told The Paris Review in 1992. Simon's own life figured most prominently in what became known as his "Brighton Beach" trilogy — "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound" — which many consider his finest works. In them, Simon's alter ego, Eugene Morris Jerome, makes

his way from childhood to the U.S. Army to finally, on the verge of adulthood, a budding career as a writer. Simon was a Depression-era child who was raised mostly by his strong-willed mother, Mamie, and mentored by his older brother, Danny, who nicknamed his younger sibling Doc. After serving in the military in 1945 and 1946, he began writing with his brother for radio and then for television, a period in their lives chronicled in Simon's 1993 play, "Laughter on the 23rd Floor." The brothers wrote for such classic 1950s TV series as "Your Show of Shows," and later for "The Phil Silvers Show," in which the popular comedian portrayed the conniving Army Sgt. Ernie Bilko.

Yet Simon grew dissatisfied with television writing and the network restrictions that accompanied it. Out of his frustration came "Come Blow Your Horn," about two brothers (not unlike Danny and Neil Simon) trying to figure out what to do with their lives.

It was his second play, "Barefoot in the Park," that really put Simon on the map. Critically well-received, the 1963 comedy, directed by Mike Nichols, concerned the tribulations of a pair of newlyweds, played by Elizabeth Ashley and Robert Redford, who lived on the top floor of a New York brownstone.

Simon cemented that success two years later with "The Odd Couple," a comedy about bickering roommates: Oscar, a gruff, slovenly sportswriter, and Felix, a neat, fussy photographer. Walter Matthau, as Oscar, and Art Carney, as Felix, starred on Broadway. Matthau and Jack Lemmon played the roles in a successful movie version. Jack Klugman and Tony Randall appeared in the TV series, which ran on ABC from 1970-1975. A female stage version was done on Broadway in 1985, and it was revived again as a TV series from 2015-17, starring Matthew Perry.

The play remains one of Simon's most durable and popular works. Nathan Lane as Oscar and Matthew Broderick as Felix starred in a revival that was one of the biggest hits of the 2005-2006 Broadway season. □

Star-studded tribute marks 100 years since Bernstein's birth

Associated Press

LENEX, Mass. (AP) — Leonard Bernstein (BURN'-stine) is getting a musical tribute that's off the charts on the 100th anniversary of the maestro's birth.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra will be joined by musicians from the New York Philharmonic, Vienna

Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and other groups when it takes the stage Saturday evening at its summer home at Tanglewood in Massachusetts. Performers include Yo-Yo Ma.

The concert caps a year of tributes to the Massachusetts-born conductor and

composer to mark the centennial of his birth. Bernstein died in 1990 at age 72 in New York City. Gov. Charlie Baker has proclaimed the day Leonard Bernstein Day. Bernstein wrote the score to "West Side Story" and won a slew of Grammys, including a lifetime achievement award in 1985. □



In this July 26, 1971 file photo conductor Leonard Bernstein tells reporters in Washington that the work he is preparing for the 1971 opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is a "labor of love."

Associated Press

Bare-knuckle fighting could be poised for a US boom

By GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — David Feldman staged a bare-knuckle boxing match on the undercard of a mixed martial arts show at a Yavapai Nation casino in Arizona in 2011. The promoter offered the fight on the internet as a paid streaming option, just to see if anybody would watch it. Feldman claims the pay-per-view system crashed under the demand of hundreds of thousands of buyers worldwide trying to watch two men fight with their bare fists.

He didn't get paid, but that's when Feldman knew this archaic sport had a future.

"This sport is absolutely not for everybody to compete in or watch," Feldman said. "For some people, the blood, the fast pace and the excitement of the whole thing is not for everybody. But for the group that it is for, I think we deliver exactly what their appetite calls for."

After nearly a decade of patient work to get this primal version of boxing formally sanctioned somewhere in the U.S., Feldman's Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship debuted in Wyoming two months ago. The show captured wide-ranging attention online, where it sold about 150,000 pay-per-view buys and drew heavy chatter on social media.



In this Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 Bec Rawlings, of Australia, poses in the ring after a bare-knuckle sparring session at City of Angels Boxing Club in Los Angeles.

Feldman's BKFC promotion is staging a second show Saturday night in Biloxi, Mississippi, putting ungloved boxers in a ring for two-minute rounds filled with the primally compelling sound of flesh hitting flesh without padding or cushion. The card features a mishmash of experienced fighters from other disciplines, including MMA veterans Bec Rawlings, Kendall Grove and Chris Lytle.

Twenty-five years after the UFC's debut, Feldman thinks regulated bare-knuckle boxing might be the next big worldwide thing in the so-called combat sports. British promoters

have staged bare-knuckle bouts for years, but the North American pay-per-view market usually is the ultimate goal for any promoter hoping to cash in.

Even before his second bare-knuckle show, it's clear Feldman has opened a door. Other North American companies are already rushing to get through it, but the veteran fight promoter believes he can build a company that will last.

"I think it's whoever starts first, but starts right first," Feldman said. "Like I told my partners, we can't walk out of the starting box. We have to sprint. So if we sprint out of the starting box, it's going to be hard to catch us. And I think that's our model right now. We did sprint out of it on June 2, and now a lot of fighters are coming our way."

In BKFC's attempt to stay on top of a sport long dormant in North America, Feldman will put on a third show in October, and he hopes to stage a fourth in December. He plans eight shows in 2019, with four on pay-per-view and four on television.

Feldman's goal isn't just to stage bare-knuckle fights, which he could do without state sanctioning. He wants to build a fight brand with a

recognizable, stable product that will compel steady fandom, just as the UFC began to do in 2005.

"Look, there's going to be competition," Feldman said.

"Just as long as they do the right thing, and do it the way that we did it, then competition is going to be great for us. But because we came out so fast and so good, we did establish ourselves as the bare-knuckle brand right now."

The top company also will need recognizable fighters, and that competition is already stiff. Another nascent promotion, the World Bare Knuckle Fighting Fed-

eration, has signed former NFL linebacker Shawne Merriman and well-known MMA stars Chris Leben and Phil Baroni to fight on a show in Wyoming in November.

But BKFC has a clear drawing card in Rawlings, the longtime UFC fighter who emerged as a figurehead for bare-knuckle fighting after her entertaining victory on BKFC's first card. When the colorfully tattooed Australian mother of two contemplates this surprising detour in her combat sports career, Rawlings is both surprised and thrilled by the opportunity to be on the forefront of something new.

Proper technique is a key to minimize the stress on a fighter's fists and wrists, which are wrapped in distinguishing colors in BKFC bouts. An ability to fight in close quarters is also important, since the fighters begin their rounds in the center of the ring, just an arm's length apart.

For Rawlings, it's all a thrill. "My only worry with my last (bare-knuckle) fight was, 'Damn, I don't want to hurt my hands,'" Rawlings said. "'These are my moneymakers.' I've got to absolutely 100 percent protect them. ... Don't hit the top of the (opponent's) head. That's really going to hurt. I found when I hit her in the chin a number of times, that also hurt. You want to go for the juicier, fleshier parts." □



In this Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 photo Bec Rawlings, of Australia, clenches her fist after getting her wrist taped in preparation for a bare-knuckle sparring session at City of Angels Boxing Club in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



In this Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 photo Bec Rawlings, right, of Australia, spars with her boyfriend Adrian Rodriguez, during a bare-knuckle training session at City of Angels Boxing Club in Los Angeles.

Associated Press